THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 14,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall Street, or No.* 823 *Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

TWO MONTH'S WORK IN VIRGINIA.

Statement of Disbursements during the months of May and June, 1864, for the National Forces in Virginia.

	MAY.	JUNE.	TOTAL.
SUPPLIES—Amount paid for Purchases	$130,105.60	$195,702.05	$325,807.65
DISTRIBUTION—Expenses of, including subsistence, transportation and compensation of over two hundred Relief Agents, forage for horses, materials necessary for the work of Agents	17,150.17	7,012.20	24,162.37
HORSES, WAGONS AND HARNESS—Amount paid for	31,755.43	1,332.98	33,088.41
TRANSPORTATION—Chartering of vessels, viz: 9 steamers, 2 barges, 1 schooner, for various periods, coal, loading, &c.	15,193.21	22,204.55	37,337.76
	194,144.41	226,251.78	420,396.19
Estimated value of additional supplies contributed to the Commission, and issued to the Army in Southern Virginia	130,000.00	42,488.37	172,884.37

The entire expenditure in money for the whole work of the Commission, East, South and West, was

In May	$262,898.77
In June	252,275.87
Total for two months	$515,174.64

It should be considered that during a campaign, characterized by the frequency of its change of base, the relative cost of transportation is much increased. The single item of charter of vessels, from the scarcity growing out of claims of Government service, necessarily becomes a very large one.

It may be noticed that the amount of supplies contributed to the Commission in kind, during June, was but about one-third the value of similar contributions in May. Hence the necessity of direct money expenditure from the Treasury.

Owing to the pressing call for anti-scorbutics, the Commission have recently issued very largely of vegetable food, as is shown by the following list of supplies forwarded during the month of June.

207,156 lbs. canned tomatoes, (over 103 tons.)	16,218 galls. saur kraut.
	100 bbls. fresh onions.
15,060 lbs. canned fruit.	70 bbls. potatoes.
574 cans " jellies.	242 bbls. dried apples.
36,273 galls. pickled cucumbers, (about 1,200 bbls.	32 " other dried fruit.
	301 boxes lemons.
13,334 galls. pickled onions.	2,400 boxes portable lemonade.
4,719, " " tomatoes.	
1,106 " curried cabbage.	25 boxes oranges.

This includes the lot distributed on the 3d inst., which reached the men in the trenches in time for their Independence day dinner. During the last fortnight prices of vegetables have been proportionately much larger than hitherto. Three steamers and a barge have already sailed for the army with an aggregate cargo of over 5,000 barrels of vegetables and delicacies.

Every precaution has been taken by the Commission to insure an accurate, comprehensive, and impartial distribution of their precious contributions to the dietary of the army.

Gen. Grant has always highly approved the work, and has given it his aid, ordering additional transportation to enable the Commission trains to go at once to the front, and as near the trenches as possible. The plan of distribution has been to send the wagons either to corps or division commanders, in charge of an adequate number of the relief agents of the Commission. The commander of each respective corps division having detailed an officer from his staff to attend, sends the wagons to the rear of their trenches, and their contents are given to the men, either in the works, or as they return after dark to the camps of the Reserves.

The enthusiasm is always great when it becomes known that such abundant supplies of acid fruits and vegetables are to be distributed in the trenches.

It is difficult for the inexperienced reader to form a sufficiently profound appreciation of the value of this anti-scorbutic food. It should be remembered that the Army of the Potomac, having passed through a campaign of the severest character, having depended mainly for food upon the fighting ration of pork, hard bread and coffee, arrived before Petersburg in a state of great exhaustion. Every consideration of humanity, patriotism and military economy made it the duty of the Commission to give it at once such aid and comfort as their experience and means rendered possible. They knew that the sickness and mortality rates would inevitably increase unless the exhausted bodies of the soldiers could be brought rapidly under the influence of well-selected anti-scorbutics. They, therefore, sent to the army a sufficient quantity and variety to give every man a daily ration of fresh food for at least ten days. The above lists will show the principal articles distributed; the quantities stated do not, however, show the entire issues to date, as all the returns are not yet in. A complete report of this work will be presented in due time to the public, whose almoner the Commission is.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION FROM A FRENCH POINT OF VIEW.

The *Revue des Deux Mondes*, for May 1, has a long and eloquent article on the Sanitary Commission and its work; and though most of its facts are, of course, familiar enough to our readers, the comments of an intelligent French critic upon an organization, which, to anybody with the ordinary French ideas of the relations of the people and the Government, must seem one of the strangest facts of the day—must contain a vast deal that is in the highest degree interesting.

Speaking of that intense individualism to which the Commission owed its origin—the writer says:

"The great problem which political science has to solve in our age, is evidently to reconcile the personal initiative of the citizen with the prerogatives of the entire social body, represented by its Government. * * Nothing but the long habit of liberty, in all countries in the world, will ever suffice to trace accurately the ever-shifting line which separates the domain of the

citizen from that of the State. It is then very important to study, from this point of view, the political customs of those societies whose individual members are distinguished in a high degree by the spirit of individual initiative. The American republic affords above all others the most remarkable examples of the right reserved by individuals of forming coalitions or independent associations, either for the purpose of giving their support to the Government, of turning it aside from a false path, or even of opposing it. A single man rises up, and sets on foot an agitation in favor of a reform or of an amelioration; if his projects are received by a certain number of citizens, they make common cause with him, furnish him with platforms, pulpits, newspapers, and never cease to struggle until either they have accomplished their object, or a sudden change in public opinion has modified their views."

"One of the most remarkable institutions produced by the spontaneous action of the American people, since the commencement of the civil war, is the Sanitary Commission, which, without waiting for any appeal from the Government, was voluntarily established for the purpose of seeing after the health and material interests of the soldiers, the cure of the wounded, and the support of the invalids. Citizens, women, children, without any other warrant than their patriotism, exercise surveillance over the conduct of the State, in that very one of its functions which it usually most jealously guards against intrusion—the organization of the national forces. Without fearing the relaxation of military discipline, they have their civilian agents, their doctors, their inspectors in the midst of all the armies. They plant their volunteer organization in the camp in which the inflexible will of a general, sending his soldiers to victory or death, reigns as the supreme law. One sees, then, that the work of the Sanitary Commission is interesting, not simply as a work of patriotic charity; it deserves also to be studied with attention as one of the most curious results of individual intiative."

Of the share of the women in originating and carrying on the work of the Commission—the writer says:

"The honor of having given the first impulse to this national work, belongs to the American women. The war had hardly begun when ladies' societies were formed in all parts of the Union, to aid the soldiers who responded to the President's call. Confused, naturally enough, by the rising tumult of the revolution, the female relatives and friends of the volunteers did not very well know how to act. They work somewhat at random, without any systematic combination of their efforts. * * *

In a few days after the fall of Fort Sumter, before the civil war, which was destined to prove so sanguinary, had cost a single life, the American women were on foot in all parts of the Union, proving the sincerity of their patriotism by the abundance of their gifts. Most of the politicians at the North affected to see in the rebellion, but an unimportant rising. Mr. Seward himself looked for its repression in ninety days; but the women, as if warned by a prophetic instinct, were preparing patiently for long years of struggle, of suffering, and of anguish.

* * * The accredited agents of the Commission with each corps are bound to make no distinction between soldiers from Massachusetts and those from Illinois; between Native Americans and emigrants from the old world, between whites and blacks; on the battle-field they have to refuse to see in the wounded they pick up and nurse, either unionists or rebels. Of all the nurses provided by the Commission, those who best understand the mission of universal charity, on which they are sent, the most devoted, the most conscientious, the most beloved by the sick, are certainly the women. Many of them, following the example given during the Crimean war by the excellent Miss Nightingale, have bid adieu to all attractions of happy homes, and of refined and elegant life, to consecrate themselves to the service of military hospitals and ambulances. They prove by their acts that it is not only anxiety about their own salvation that can enable one to breathe without repugnance the tainted atmosphere of an hospital. An ardent love of country, and a profound sentiment of the fraternity of the human race, are all that are needed to make their devotion

easy; modest heroines of tenderness and of grace, they fulfill their mission with a joyous enthusiasm and simplicity which charms all hearts. When the war shall have ceased to desolate the United States, thousands of soldiers of the two hostile armies, will remember with emotion the care these women have bestowed on them."

The article then enters at some length into an account of the organization of the Commission, and its manner of working, and gives a number of details of the results it has accomplished, and then makes the following remarks apon its peculiarly American character:

"One sees that the Sanitary Commission is a peculiarly American institution. There is no doubt the chiefs of the various European armies would not tolerate at any price the formation of a free society of hospitallers, charging itself with the duty, not only of taking care of the sick and wounded, but of making army censuses; obtaining transportation for the soldiers; pursuing deserters;* examining the cause of punishments inflicted, and defending the interests of the troops, not only against speculators, but even in case of need, against the Government itself. In England, not less than on the Continent, any association of individuals putting forward any such pretensions, would certainly be accused of madness or wickedness. So true it is, that American manners owe their peculiarities rather to the long enjoyment of free institutions than to the Anglo Saxon origin of the people. After that terrible Crimean winter, during which the English troops lost one-half of their effective force, the British Government decided, it is true, to appoint a Sanitary Commission, in order to save the remains of its army, which threatened to melt away entirely; but that Commission had to confine itself to the reorganization of the medical department, and the recommendation of hygeinic precautions. The European work which most resembles that of the American patriots, is that of the international association of nurses, established at Geneva, by M. Henri Dunant. Under certain aspects, the enterprise set on foot by this noble-hearted man is, perhaps, greater and more humane than that of the American Sanitary Commission, for it rises above the narrow considerations of local patriotism, and hoists the flag of universal charity over all armies engaged in mutual slaughter; but does not this International Association of Relief, by the very extent of the plan which it traces out for itself, condemn itself to be misunderstood? It has had official encouragements, approvals, more or less vague, from various crowned heads, in abundance, but unfortunately it has not yet received the all-powerful support of popular enthusiasm."

* This is of course an error of the writer; the Commission charges itself with no such duty.—[Eds.]

SCENES AND INCIDENTS.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, *June*, 1864.

Two men are before me. One of a nervous, irritable temperament, with a slight wound. His wife and family will be troubled, his life is in danger, he must go home, he must have somebody to wait on him, he is fretful. It is his first hospital experience; his first sickness from home. He will fall into line in a day or two, and be more cheerful. The example of brave men about him will arouse his better nature, and he will overcome his irritation.

Another is a veteran. Has seen battles, fought in them, been in hospitals before. He has both legs amputated above the knees. Look at him. He is sitting up in his blanket, with a basin of water at his side and a sponge in each hand, pressing the water in little drops from the sponge on his stumps, to soften the dressings and have them ready for the surgeon to remove. He turns upon his axis from side to side, wets his sponges, laughs at his stumps, calls them "bully," and only wishes that he had two good wooden ones, that he might be "on to Richmond."

A YOUNG IRISH SOLDIER FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

Says one of the Relief Agents: "As I sat in my room after the labors at the hospital, there was a modest rap at the door. I opened, and an Irish boy leaned against the post supporting one arm with the opposite hand. His only clothing, pants and shirt, were dusty and worn. He had neither hat nor shoes, and had walked eleven miles from the field. The sweat of battle was still on his brow; a ball from the foe had penetrated his shoulder, and the pain of the wound was severe. In a tremulous voice he said, "Please, sir, can I get something to eat?" Hungry and his rations gone, he was taken in and fed. His wardrobe tattered and lost, he was clothed and comforted. Wounded and suffering, he was

bound up and restored. The good that was done to the boy was something; the good to me went as deep as my heart. The good in this work is imparted, but there is more of it received. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

A LAD FROM MAINE.

He was just fifteen. Two of his brothers had fallen in battle; one was still left, unless he too had fallen recently. This boy was wounded in the hand, the left ear, and through the left thigh; the ball had broken the bone and cut the femoral artery. The boy was a lovely one, of delicate frame, fair hair, sweet soft voice, and innocent expression. One evening he had a severe hemorrhage, and the surgeon determined to amputate. He beckoned to me, and said, "They are going to take off my leg; stand by me all the time; pray for me too." Chloroform was administered, and the surgeons gathered around. Upon renewing the examination, it was determined not to amputate, as there was no chance for his life. The influence of the chloroform passed away, and his first inquiry was, "Is it off yet?" He found it was not, learned the reason, and looking solemnly in my face and raising his hand, said: "Will you pray for me, pray for me, and when I am dead do not bury me in a blanket. Put me in a box, as my mother would do. Let it be done right." In a few hours he was sleeping in the arms of death. His resting-place is with his comrades. His country has had the baptism of his young blood, and to the cause of human freedom he has sacrificed his life.

THE UNKNOWN.

While upon the wharf recently at Fortress Monroe, a gentleman came to me and asked if it would be possible for him to examine the records of the medical department, that he might possibly find the name of a relative, who had not been heard of since the peninsular campaign of 1862. He was directed to the proper office, searched and found the name of the young man as having been in an hospital, &c., but the time and place of his burial he could not discover. In the wanderings and searchings of this gentleman among the graves of soldiers in different places on the peninsular he was unable to find any trace of the resting place of his relative. He saw, however, here and there written on the little head-boards "unknown;" and conscious that he for whom he sought was among them, he gave up the search as hopeless. Conversing together on the sad feelings which have beclouded many a home since the war began, and participating himself to some extent in the same afflictive dispensation, he wrote the following lines, and presented them to me.

THE UNKNOWN.

Unknown! and this sad word records the fame
Of one whose breast received the foeman's steel
On his unconscious form; no mark, no name,
Told of the dear one's home, who still shall kneel
And supplicate for him a father's throne;
He died in stranger arms—he died *unknown*.

Unknown to *her* his death, and she will try
With breaking heart to solve the mystery.
"Absent 'thout leave," will be the curt reply,
And darker still the inference may lie
All near his name. One I am proud to own
Has this record, for he too died *unknown*.

Unknown defenders of our country's life
We bare our heads, and to thee bend the knee;
Our faith looks up, beyond this fearful strife,
Into the realms of blest eternity,
Where through the merits of our Christ alone
Blood-washed are ye, who here have died *unknown*.

KINDNESS.

While examining a fearful wound in a young soldier in one of the hospitals the other day, I was astonished at the rapid progress towards recovery, as well as at the patient's unusually vigorous condition, considering the nature of the wound—a compound fracture in the upper third of the right thigh. The following statement which he gave me accounts for this man's good fortune: He was wounded while in the skirmish line the 3d of June, at Coal Harbor, Va. His comrades had him carefully conveyed to the rear, and as soon as permission could be obtained after the battle, eight of those comrades undertook the task of transporting him on a litter, borne upon their own shoulders, from Coal Harbor to Whitehouse, 22 miles by the road they traveled. Carefully they kept step as they went onward to the new base for the transports, and when they reached the hospital boat in the Pamunkey River the field litter and its precious burden were deposited without having been jostled or the wounded parts injured. The physicians promised that the noble object of this tender care should be transported to the hospital wharf at Washington, and from thence to some general hospital, without being disturbed from the carefully prepared bed upon which he had been brought from the battle field. The pledge has been fulfilled, and if those affectionate comrades live to reach Jefferson County, N. Y., again, there is reason to believe they will find there the noble man who was borne upon their shoulders from Coal Harbor to the White House.

H.

A SOLDIER'S SUBSCRIPTION.

One little incident should be mentioned here which happened recently. A soldier handed us $2 to be presented as a donation to the Commission. *Reason*, he had been taken good care of in a hospital by one or more of the agents there. Furthermore, he gives $2 every month, and intends to do so. The suffering soldier will ever be the best witness as to *who* helps him most.

The thin shirts and drawers issued in such large quantities for a few days past, are just the thing. It is really refreshing to see the wounded men in the tents and all those who are able to hobble about, sporting thin white clothing, in place of those cruel, hot, dirty flannels.

ANTI-SCORBUTICS.

Our readers may be pleased to see the following extracts from the Commission's Journal, kept at City Point, together with a few testimonial letters, indicating what we are doing in supplying the army with anti scorbutic food.

On the 6th Dr. Douglas sent from City Point to the front 1,150 bbls. of vegetables, and 8,000 heads of cabbages, not less than one-half of which constituted the Commission's part of the cargo of the "Belvidere," sent from New York by the Onion Fund Committee, under the direction of G. W. Blunt and Captain Charles G. Marshall.

As we write (July 8th) three Commission steamers are loading with vegetables, and will leave to-morrow.

CITY POINT, VA., *June* 28, 1864.

Capt. Harris' teams are loading up to-day for the Point, with large quantities of saur kraut, curry, pickles and dried apples; there has been, perhaps, one loaded with an assortment. There are 16 or 17 wagons.

The troops in the vicinity and the army in front too are beginning to smell out our stores of anti-scorbutics. Ten barrels of saur kraut were issued at the end of our gang plank yesterday, in small quantities. It seems to please the soldiers like a thanksgiving dinner. Hard tack and salt pork and beef will not satisfy the stomach for month after month, much less palate; these articles are here at the right time.

—

June 29, 1864.

Two wagon loads of fresh vegetables went to the front this P. M.; cabbages, radishes, beans, peas, &c., to the 9th Army Corps, 20 barrels.

The Commission is now doing splendid work in the front; it may now pour in a stream of its supplies into the very trenches in front. Those who come in say that fresh and pickled vegetables are what are most needed among our famishing men.

7 o'clock, P. M. Wagons are still loading up with saur kraut, fresh vegetables, ale, &c. The bees in the hive are hard at work, but we need more.

—

July 1*st*, 1864.

The following order was issued by Major Gen. Hancock, a copy of which was received here to-day:

HEAD-QUARTERS, 2d ARMY CORPS, *July* 1, 1864.
Special Orders, No. 170.

EXTRACT.

The Sanitary Commission having turned over for the use of the troops of this Corps

140 boxes tomatoes, (about 4,000 lbs.,)
19 boxes lemons,
5 bbls. pickled onions,
320 lbs. chewing tobacco,

they will be distributed, under the direction of the Chief Commissary of the Corps, only to the men of the different divisions and artillery now occupying the line of works.

By order of Major-Gen. Hancock,

W. P. WILSON,
A. Ass't Adj't Gen'l.

Dr. Smith delivered the above goods directly to Gen. Hancock, who expressed himself as greatly gratified, and immediately issued the above order.

—

July 2, 1864.

Messrs. Judd and Smith returned this A. M. Mr. Judd reports that he delivered his five loads in person, taking regiment by regiment. He went along the trenches of the 18th Corps, settled his business with each commander of a regiment, met with a cordial reception by the rank and file, and had the satisfaction to know that his goods were in a way to reach 19,000 men.

His mission was entirely successful. He was some of the time under fire, and much exposed to danger.

Early in the evening an examination was made to see how much of the anti-scorbutic stock could be made out for the army. It was found that there was at hand, provided transportation could be obtained,

400 barrels pickles,
125 " pickled onions,
98 " fresh onions,
60 " potatoes,
75 " dried apples.

758 total barrels,
and 90 boxes lemons.

Dr. Douglas and Dr. McDonald have just returned from a visit to Gen. Grant. The General will furnish transportation to-morrow morning, and proceed with this stock immediately to the trenches. It will take, if carried 6 bbls. to a load, with lemons scattered through, about 125 teams.

—

July 3, 1864.

Mr. De Long reports that five Sanitary Commission wagons were loaded.

72 boxes tomatoes,
24 " chicken,
228 lbs. chocolate,
72 cans peaches,
156 " pears,
12 boxes sherry,
6 " milk,
1 sheep and 100 lbs. ice.

Also, 1 wagon for 9th Army Corps, and five for the different Relief Agents, making a total of eleven wagons.

One ought to see the boys who came up from the front out of the trenches "pitch into" the acids, such as saur kraut and pickles. It reminds one of Dr. Kane's party in the arctic regions, who having been a long time without food, "gobbled up" raw seal and walrus, even while the life-currents were yet flowing. The boys are *frantic* for acids.

The following are the stores ordered by Lieut.-Col. R. M. Morgan, Chief Commissary:

400 barrels pickled cucumbers,
122 " pickled onions,
94 " fresh onions,
54 " potatoes,
73 " dried apples,

743 barrels.
89 boxes lemons.

The above are equivalent to about 120 wagon loads. Eighteen of the Commission men will go with them to the trenches this P. M., and be assigned in squads to the respective corps to aid the Government in the distribution, and to act as a corps of observation.

—

City Point, *July* 3, 1864.

Mr. Knapp:

Dear Sir—We sent to the army day before yesterday about twenty-five tons of supplies. Among them were 11,000 lbs. of tomatoes and 800 lbs. of tobacco.

We send to-day 800 bbls. and boxes of vegetables, pickled and fresh. They are distributed through the Commissaries of Divisions, as being the most expeditious and sure way of doing the work. General Grant finds us the transportation. The articles are now being loaded on the cars. They will be delivered at the farther end of the railway to Division Commissaries. We expect that they will be in the possession of the soldiers to-morrow morning. Every corps in all its appointments will be reached speedily in this army.

Yours, truly,
(Signed,) J. H. Douglas.

—

Extract from a letter dated near Petersburg, June 29, 1864:

Dr. Douglas:

Dear Sir.—Twelve barrels each of kraut and dried apples were turned over to me last evening for the 9th Army Corps. I saw Generals Burnside and Parks, also the chief of the Commissary Department, Col. Coles, who will with myself see that it is sent to the *trenches* this day.

General Burnside called on me night before last. I was not at home, but I was told that he expressed himself as more than satisfied with the labors of the Commission in ameliorating the condition of his command.

Other Generals have told me within two days that the donations of apples, pickles, ale, &c., to the men in the trenches, *have made a perceptible improvement in their condition;* and General Hurteaudft, of the 3d Division, pointed to a man who he believed had been saved to the service by the timely aid.

Now with this evidence and kindly feeling manifested, I am stimulated to exertion for those in front, to prevent sickness by some addition to the present "rations," in the form of acid fruits and pickles, and very, very much will have been done. Dried apples, pickled onions, canned tomatoes and kraut, in the order named, I believe the best.

Most respectfully yours,
N. C. Stevens.

—

June 30, 1864.

Dr. Douglas:

Dear Sir.—I went to headquarters last

evening, and the *officers declined* using any of the vegetables, saying that the men in the trenches needed them more than they do, and that they did not have the resources they had. They say, take care of the men in the trenches. Indications of scurvy are beginning to be developed, which will be counteracted by prompt aid from antiscorbutics. In conference with three of the Medical Directors of the Corps, it was thought that canned tomatoes were the most convenient form of vegetables that could be used, as they need no cooking, and one box of 2 lbs. will give a mess to six persons. Next pickles, kraut and vegetables. Vegetables are so perishable, that if not used while fresh, they are not worth much. Send anything your wisdom may suggest. I assure you it will be most heartily appreciated by officers and men.

Yours, in haste,

N. C. STEVENS.

—

Copy of a letter from Major-General Smith:

HEADQUARTERS 18TH ARMY CORPS,
IN THE FIELD, NEAR PETERSBURG,
July 1, 1864.

TO DR. J. H. DOUGLAS,
Associate Sec'y Sanitary Com'n:

DEAR SIR—The supplies kindly forwarded by you from the Sanitary Commission have been received at these headquarters, and will at once be distributed as requested.

The Major-General commanding the Corps desires me to express to you his appreciation of this donation to his command by the Commission you represent, and to say that there perhaps has never been a time when they could be of greater benefit, or that their want has been more felt by the troops.

He also desires me to express to you, and through you to the Commission you represent, his thanks for the interest they have ever shown for the welfare and well-being of the troops in the field, and his appreciation of the work in which they are engaged and the labors they have performed.

I am, dear sir, yours very truly, &c.,

WM. RUSSELL, JR.,
Major and Ass't Adj't Gen'l.

—

HEADQUARTERS, 3D DIV., 6TH A. C.,
June 27, 1864.

SURGEON R. BARR,
Surgeon in Chief 3d Div., 6th Corps:

SIR—Please present my best thanks to Dr. Steiner, Chief Inspector Sanitary Commission, and Mr. Blazier, agent for the 6th Corps, for the very acceptable and liberal donation of two wagon loads of anti-scorbutics to this Division; and while I am grateful on the score of health, the men feel this tangible proof of the benefits of the Commission.

Very respectfully,

JAMES B. RICKETTS,
Brigadier General.

—

HOSPITAL, 3D DIV., 6TH CORPS,
June 27, 1864.

MR. BLAZIER, *Agent U. S. S. C.:*

I take great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the Sanitary Stores furnished recently for the use of the men of this Division. It is the opinion of the Commanding General Ricketts, that great good is done by this one issue of vegetables to the troops under his command. I feel satisfied myself that a judicious and timely supply of *such articles* will go far to restore that healthy condition of system which can only be maintained by such means. If such articles as we have received can be supplied again, while the troops remain quiet, I will see they are brought forward and promptly distributed.

Let me return you my sincere thanks for the great good done, and to say nothing has ever been more welcome to the men, for which they feel truly thankful.

R. BARR,
Surgeon in Chief, 3d Div., 6th Corps.

—

HEADQUARTERS, BIRNEY'S DIV., 2D CORPS,
July 4, 1864.

DR. DOUGLAS,
U. S. Sanitary Commission:

DEAR SIR—It affords me pleasure to acknowledge the extensive benefit derived to the sick and wounded of the 3d Division, 2d Corps, since crossing the James River. Whilst the Medical Department of the army has furnished us promptly and in abundance all needful surgical and medical supplies, with many extras, in fact to the full amount of transportation allowed to our department, the timely addition of such supplies as we have received from the Sanitary Commission, into which all local, "State Relief," or other divided effort should be merged, has added vastly to the comfort and welfare of the soldiers who

have passed from the front through the hospitals to the rear. That a whole people should organize themselves into a grand voluntary benevolent society, as our people have done through the Sanitary Commission, is no less a wonder to the world than the other events of transpired history.

From my own observation of the superior working of the Sanitary Commission, owing to its organization and superior facilities, I have only to regret that all the supplies of materials donated by the people for the army are not distributed through your agency.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
ALPHEUS EVERTS,
Surg. 20th Ind. V. V., and Chief of 3d Div., 2d Co ps.

—

As we go to press we receive the following letters from Maj. Gen. Burnside and the Surgeons and Chaplains of 9th Army Corps; also, one from Dr. Douglas to Lieut. Gen. Grant, accompanying transmission of vegetables shipped on the "Belvidere," from New York.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 9TH A. C.,
CAMP BEFORE PETERSBURG. VA.,
Ju y 1st, 1864.

SIR—It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge herewith the receipt of an issue of vegetables for my command, contributed by the Sanitary Commission.

My command is already indebted to you for several issues of vegetables and anti-scorbutics, and I cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing my sincere thanks and appreciation of the value of the services which your Commission has so generously rendered.

I am sir, very respectfully,
A. E. BURNSIDE,
Major General.

—

FIELD HOSPITAL, 9TH ARMY CORPS,
NEAR PETERSBURG, VA.,
July 2d, 1864.

DR. J. H. DOUGLAS,
Associate Secretary U. S. Sanitary Commission:

SIR—As Surgeons and Chaplains of the 9th Army Corps, it gives us great pleasure to acknowledge to you and to the many friends of the Sanitary Commission our great indebtedness to this Commission during the present campaign, for the supply of numerous articles so essential to the comfort of the sick and wounded, demonstrating the exceeding value of this charity.

It affords us unqualified pleasure to bear testimony to the energy and faithfulness of your Agent, Dr. N. C. Stevens, in dispensing the stores committed to his trust.

Especially do we commend his judgment in the distribution of large quantities of anti-scorbutics to the men in the trenches, where the utility of such material is established in the prevention of sickness and the regulation of the system, rendering their recovery when wounded, more probable and speedy.

We trust that the Commission will continue its work in this direction, so favorably begun.

Most respectfully yours,

HORACE LUDINGTON, Surg. 100th Pa. Vols., in charge 1st Div., 9th A. C., Field Hospitals.
JOHN W. SNOW, Surgeon 35th Mass. Vols.
J. O. MULLEN, Surgeon 14th N. Y. Artillery.
A. H. D SHIELL, Chaplain 57th Mass. Inf.
T. FLETCHER OAKES, Surg. 56th Mass., Ass. Surg. Hosp. 1st Div., 9th A. C.
W. V. WHITE, Surgeon 57th Mass.
E. W. MORTONI, Asst. Surg. 59th Reg. Me. Vols.
HORACE B. DURANT, Asst. Surg. 100th Reg. Penn. V.
WILLIAM A. WEBSTER, Surg. 9th Reg. N. H. Vol.
THEO. J. CHRIST, Surg. 45th Reg. Penn. Vol.
J. D. MILWAL, Surg. 31st Reg. Me. Vol.
SHERMAN COOPER, Surg. 6th Reg. N. H. Vol.
ROBERT T. PAINE, JR., Surgeon 2d Reg. N. Y. M.
E. B. PIERCE, Asst. Surgeon 17th Reg. Vt. Vol.
H. M. G. MILLSEN, Asst. Surg.
E. G. MESSENGER, Asst. Surgeon Penn. Vol.
CLARK C. HAFTON, Surgeon 32d Reg. Me. Vol.
H. S. B. SMITH, Asst. Surgeon 32d Reg. Me. Vol.
J. S. DOWE, Chaplain 6th Reg. N. H. Vet. Vol.
E. Z. DYFORD, Chaplain 11th Reg. N. H. Vol.
GEO. C. GRACEFOR, Chaplain 31st Reg. Me. Vol.
WM. A. START, Chaplain 53th Reg. Mass. Vol.
WM. R. D. BLACKWOOD, Surgeon 48th Reg. Penn. V.
L. B. BECKLEY, Chaplain 48th Reg. Penn. Vol.
L. W. BLISS, Surgeon 51st Reg. N. Y. Vol.
E. J. BONINE, Surgeon 2d Reg. Mich. Vet. Vol.
S. S. FRENCH, Surg. 2d Brig., 3d Div., 9th A. C.
WILLS B. FOX, Surg. 1st Brig., 3d Div., 9th A. C.
H. E. SMITH, Surgeon 27th Reg. Mich. Vol.
D. E. ROUNDY, Surgeon 37th Reg. Wis. Vol.
W. E. SHURLOCK, Surgeon 51st Reg. Penn. Vet. V.
A. F. WHELAN, Surgeon 1st Reg. Mich. Sharp Sh.
CHARLES E. AMES, Surgeon 60th Reg. Ohio Vol.
HARRISON H. POWERS, Asst. Surg. 27th Reg. Mich. V.
H. L. BUTTERFIELD, Surgeon 38th Reg. Wis. Vol.
L. L. DOOLITTLE, Surgeon 24th Reg. N. Y. Cav.
JOSEPH JAMES, Chaplain 20th Reg. Mich. Vol.
S. S. HUNTING, Chaplain 27th Reg. Mich. Vol.
J. D. BEVINE, Surgeon 17th Reg. Mich. Vol.

—

CITY POINT, VA., July 6, 1864.

GENERAL:

I have just received from New York an invoice of fresh vegetables, consisting of

four hundred and twenty (420) barrels of potatoes, and three hundred and fifty-four (354) barrels of onions, which the Sanitary Commission desire to have distributed among the men in the armies operating before Richmond.

I have the honor of forwarding to you the accompanying letter from Mr. Blunt and Mr. Marshall, of New York, which has been placed in my hands, together with an invoice of vegetables sent on the steamer Belvidere, with those coming from the Sanitary Commission.

I respectfully request that these vegetables, in all 1153 barrels and 7000 heads of cabbages, may be distributed among the men in these armies.

The people at home send them to their brothers in the army, as an expression of their profound admiration and unbounded confidence.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
J. H. Douglas, M. D.

Gen. Grant ordered Col Morgan, of his staff, to take charge of the goods.

They were immediately loaded on the cars for the front. The condition of the vegetables seemed to be good.

PRE-PAY YOUR LETTERS.

We wish to call special attention to the necessity of *pre-paying the full amount* of postage on letters intended for soldiers. As will be seen by the accompanying communication from Mr. Kelly, and the circular he has issued, no letters can be allowed to go to officers or soldiers in the field, unless the entire postage is paid. No matter how valuable they may be, the postmaster has no discretionary power. The law in this respect is absolute. The entire postage must be paid before letters are suffered to leave the nearest post-office for the front. More than this, if a fraction only of the amount due on a letter is pre-paid, double the remaining fraction must be paid when the letter is taken from the office. If the wife of a soldier, thinking her letter to her husband in the field with Sherman, is of single weight, happens to drop it into the office with only a single three cent stamp upon it, and it should be a grain heavier than half an ounce, the letter must lie in the office at Chattanooga until, not three, but six cents additional are paid for postage due on it. It is not carried to the soldier in the regimental post-bag, and the opportunity given him of paying the amount due on seeing it, but he must be notified of the letter by the postmaster at Chattanooga, must answer the notification with the requisite postage, and then be obliged to wait days, and perhaps weeks, in his various movements before the letter can overtake him. Meanwhile, what anxiety and disappointment may have been endured by the wife and family at home, because of this carelessness or ignorance!

There certainly can be no excuse for the failure of officers to pre-pay postage on letters to soldiers. It must come from gross carelessness and indifference. No one knows how many waiting and suffering men in hospitals and at home are longing for "descriptive rolls" and "discharge papers," which are lying with "postage due" marked upon them in some distant office. With so much good and so much evil necessarily dependent upon so small a matter as an additional postage stamp or two, those writing to soldiers cannot be too careful to *pre-pay the full amount* of all their letters.

The number of unpaid letters accumulated at Nashville and Chattanooga a short time ago was very large. The Sanitary Commission has recently undertaken to discharge this debt of so many soldiers to the Government, and it cannot be doubted that the amount of comfort thus promoted, to say nothing of the material gain in really valuable letters, will be proportionate to the hundreds of dollars expended.

—

Louisville, Ky, *May* 20, 1874.

Dr. J. S. Newberry:

Dear Sir—I am Special Agent of the Post Office Department for the Military Department, and have just returned from a tour of inspection to Chattanooga. I found at Nashville and Chattanooga quite an accumulation of mail for the soldiers under Gen. Sherman, *detained for unpaid postage.*

Under his oath of office, the postmaster has no discretion; he cannot permit unpaid mail to pass from his possession without the money due is first paid. Both offices sent out notices to the front, but for some cause only a small proportion of this mail ever reaches the soldier.

Under these circumstances I determined to appeal to that great charity with which you are connected, to add one other to its many claims upon the gratitude of the army and the people, by paying these unpaid letters.

It is needless for me to tell you what joy, what faith, what courage, you will thus be the means of imparting to many a war-worn soldier, by sending promptly forward the letter from wife or child, which, otherwise, would be left to await the tardy process of notification.

I am, very respectfully yours,
Wm. L. Kelly.

POST OFFICE CIRCULAR.

Surgeons in charge of hospitals, and officers of posts and barracks, having occasion to address official communications to officers and others in the field, will be careful to *pre-pay in full* the postage when intended to be sent by mail.

Failure to do so subjects such matter to double charges, and causes its detention at the post office until the persons addressed shall pay the amount due, and in many cases results in its total failure to reach its destination.

WM. L. KELLY,
Special Agent P. O. Department,
In charge of Mails, Military Division of the Miss.
NASHVILLE, TENN., *May* 31, 1864.

—*Sanitary Reporter.*

THE SANITARY GARDENS AT CHATTANOOGA.

None but those who have visited the South and have followed the course of our armies, can realize the desolation which this terrible war, now in progress, has brought upon the land, and especially upon the once fertile valley and pleasant homes of East Tennessee. Wherever the army has swept, a thunderbolt of just revenge, it has left behind it traces of its wrath in desolated, ruined homes—in houses burned to the ground, the two chimneys at either hand left standing like solemn upward pointing fingers, calling to God to look upon the misery that man's evil passions have wrought—in fences torn down, trees uprooted, and in bare stubble-fields where once were rich harvests of grain and cotton.

Chattanooga, situated in the midst of the valley, on the banks of the Tennessee, and surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills, was once noted for its beauty. Shady, carefully kept groves of ancient trees covered the hills and plains, and the houses were surrounded by gardens that bloomed with the most exquisite flowers. The plains around the houses were dotted with fine plantations, where were raised the magnificent crops for which East Tennessee is so justly celebrated. Now the plains are swept literally bare, so that guns on Fort Wood can command the whole valley, from Mission Ridge around to Cameron Hill, and the town itself is reduced to an army post, hot, dusty, and swarming with soldiers. A walk in any direction brings you into a deserted camp, and you stumble over old shoes, ragged torn coats and rusty canteens, telling of where our soldiers lived, before following the universal custom of Yankees on the first of May, they "moved" in search of better quarters at Atlanta. But one thing redeems this sad picture of the havoc that war has made at Chattanooga, and that is the Sanitary Gardens, consisting of a hundred and fifty acres, given by Gen. Thomas to the United States Sanitary Commission, to be cultivated for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers. These gardens lie along the banks of the Tennessee, about three quarters of a mile from the town, up the river. The only approach to them is across a narrow bridge over a little creek, and should you attempt to enter, an imperative "halt" from the sentry with leveled bayonet, disagreeably reminds you that passes anywhere and everywhere and for all sorts of reasons, are the most essential things in Dixie. Once through that barrier, you find yourself upon a level plain, with long rows of onions, beets, turnips, parsnips, etc., stretching away from you on either hand—in one corner of the field you notice a detachment of Uncle Sam's "unbleached American" children in their neat blue uniforms, hoeing away for dear life at the potatoes, as they never hoed before at "the cotton and the corn." The hundred and fifty acres do not lie together, but are separated by a creek or arm of the river into different fields, so that Mr. Wills, the head gardener, has been able to separate his crops, taking one entire field for potatoes, another for corn, and still another for onions, etc. The whole garden is now planted. Nearly in the centre of the garden is an Indian mound, so elevated above the plain, that, standing on its top, you can at a glance take in the whole magnificent scenery. At your left lies the blue Tennessee, glittering out from beyond Mission Ridge, and winding through the valley to the base of Lookout, tangling the hills in a silver braid; opposite, on the Ridge, is that fatal cornfield where Sherman fought so long and so well, and the heights our brave men stormed and won, and farther on towards the right stands old Lookout, a great sentinel, visible for miles away. The sides of this beautiful mound are now green with lettuce, radishes, mustard, etc., but when these are gone the mound will be a fragrant bouquet of flowers from foot to summit. In the centre of the level space on the top is a tent with rustic seats around, and the Sanitary Commission propose to give Cleveland the honor of placing a Union flag over the tent, an emblem of the benevolence as well as the patriotism of the loyal North. Near the mound are the tents and accommodations for the workmen and teams. Besides a large force permanently employed, Mr. M. C. Read, of Hudson, the Agent of the Commission, to whom the success of the gardens is chiefly due, has obtained from the Government one company to be stationed there as guards, and also a company from one of the colored regiments to assist in cultivating. He employs from twenty to thirty horses and mules in ploughing and teaming. Every day ambulances from the various hospitals are sent to the gar-

dens, and return laden with the bounties nature so readily yields to a willing, industrious hand. Already hundreds of bushels of lettuce and other greens have been given to the hospitals at Chattanooga and on Lookout, and should the abundant harvests that are now promised grow to a reality, there will be vegetables enough to supply all the hospitals at that point during the coming summer and fall. Early in April, Mr. Read discovered four fine vineyards along the line of the railroad beyond Mission Ridge, and on application to General Thomas, they were confiscated, and placed at his control. The vines are cultivated on short poles, and when I saw them a few weeks ago, the grapes were set in large quantities. How refreshing to our suffering soldiers, who have lain for nearly three months in crowded wards under the burning Southern sun, will be this delicious fruit next fall! For, sad to say, it takes months for a wound to heal, and the patience of a soldier must be even greater than his bravery.

This rambling letter will, I fear, give you a very inadequate idea of the beauty and usefulness of the Sanitary gardens at Chattanooga; but I send it in the hope, that from it your numerous readers will be able to judge, in some measure, of the noble work of the U. S. Sanitary Commission there. The gardens are but a single department of this work, and if I have not wearied you too much with this letter, I hope to have the opportunity of giving you some account of the Commission in connection with the hospitals, and with the battles which have recently taken place at Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, and elsewhere—*Cleveland Herald.*

TESTIMONY OF SURGEON HART.

The Soldier's Aid Society, Northern Ohio, is the Cleaveland Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

GENERAL FIELD HOSPITAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, RESACA, GA., June 16.

Secretary Soldiers' Aid Society, Cleveland, Ohio.

Surrounded as I am upon every side by the generous gifts of the Sanitary Commission to our wounded soldiers, marked "Soldiers' Aid Society, Northern Ohio," it occurs to me that perhaps no word of encouragement has gone back to you in acknowledgment of the large disbursements of your noble charity at this point, and of the invaluable contributions you have made to the comfort of the wounded.

This hospital is the largest field hospital in the department, and has one hundred hospital tents, with cots and appliances to match, and after the battle of Resaca, a month since, received over three thousand wounded. Under the efficient management of Surgeon M. C. Wadsworth, of Warren, Ohio, the straggling materials from which the organization of nurses and attendants had to be made up, were speedily reduced to complete order and efficiency. Seldom do our wounded receive so careful attendance and nursing immediately after a great battle as have been furnished them at this hospital, and their frequent expressions of satisfaction with the care given them, would go far to dispel dread often felt at home at the word Hospital. As fast as cars could be furnished, the cases admitting of removal were sent back by railroad, as in most instances box cars had to be employed. They were made as clean as possible, and hay plentifully supplied. In hundreds of cases the patient was placed in the car in his cot, and in that manner sent safely and comfortably. In every instance a surgeon accompanied the train to Chattanooga, with nurses, food, stimulants and medicines, while the Sanitary Commission furnished hot coffee and refreshments at Dalton whenever needed.

The sanitary stores here are in charge of Dr. E. C. Warren, Sanitary Inspector, who has also labored as surgeon among the wounded. By far the largest part of the supplies, and especially of the clothing, came marked as the contributions of your society. Without them no effort of the surgeons could have rendered the wounded comfortable. This has been the source of our bountiful supply of milk, which I think one of the first blessings to the wounded, after shelter and a comfortable bed. Most of our extract of beef, which is an indispensible necessity in our circumstances, they have furnished. Also a large amount of dried fruits of all kinds, apples, peaches, pears, blackberries, cherries, &c., and canned fruits in every variety. Then all our choice stimulants—cherry brandy, domestic wines, &c. Some of our patients live for days on little else than the ale received from the Commission. From the Sanitary Garden at Chattanooga we have had supplies of green peas, onions, salad and radishes.

The larger part of our roller bandages, all our cloths for dressings, pads, hundreds of sheets, and drawers, socks, handkerchiefs, pillow-cases, dressing-gowns, these constitute but a part of the wounded soldiers' indebtedness to the Sanitary Commission. I particularly noticed a large invoice of *quilts* from your society, received here just when the fly-blown blankets could not be endured another day, and one of the most timely of all of your favors.

Attending to the wounded in one of the wards under my care one morning I was amused at the comments they made. Their breakfast had been made palatable with "Sanitary milk," and they had just been

furnished with clean shirts, drawers, sheets and handkerchiefs from sanitary supplies. Of this they were talking, and one of them, taking up a bush to keep off the flies, put on a comical, fault-finding look and tone, and exclaimed, "Well, I'm sure those ladies have sent us everything else we want, and I think they might have put in some *fans* to keep us cool this hot weather."

Our army had only time to bury their dead and get the wounded to the hospitals when it was ordered to pursue the enemy. In many instances no opportunity was given for regimental officers or surgeons to make out lists of killed and wounded. The omission was supplied here as soon as possible by E. S. Tone, agent of the Sanitary Commission, who went patiently over the extended line of battle, sought out the resting place of the dead, and made full records of the name and regiments of the fallen. He procured the lists of wounded from the records of the Division Hospitals. The lists thus obtained were, in many instances, the first reliable intelligence received by friends at home.

One word as to the manner in which sanitary stores are expended. Do they go to the objects intended by the donors? Here at least they have been faithfully expended. I shall not pretend that every article and item is applied to the best possible purpose, but if one of those noble women who make you the channel of their gifts to our wounded could attend in person to their distribution, I feel assured she would need to be often checked by the surgeon in the liberality of her disbursements, lest the sight of the destitution all around should lead her to speedily exhaust her stores.

Those whom you represent would feel themselves repaid for their labor and self-denial could they fully know what sufferings are palliated, relieved or prevented through their efforts.

Too high terms cannot be used in speaking of the patient endurance of the wounded. Their fortitude in their sufferings must be seen in order to be appreciated, and when every means we employ fail to bring relief to-day, the surgeon often secures patience and hope to his patient by the balm of to-morrow.

In behalf of three thousand wounded soldiers of our army, Surgeon Woodworth requests through you to thank the donors to the Sanitary Commission for the liberal and opportune supplies, which have enabled us to make them by far more comfortable than they could have been done had we relied exclusively upon the appliances furnished by the Government.

Very truly yours,

A. G. Hart,

Surgeon 41st O. V. I.

CAUSES OF MORTALITY IN THE MILITARY HOSPITALS—MEANS OF DIMINISHING IT.

A large share of the Commission's efforts, since the commencement of the present campaign, has been directed to the mitigation of suffering and the saving of life in field and hospital, by timely and intelligent aid to badly wounded men, and especially to those compelled by the cruel necessities of war to be transported, often in rough and clumsy conveyances, with frequent shiftings and changes before reaching their destinations in an Army General Hospital. It is truly the period which elapses between the soldier's fall on the field and his consignment to the hospital, that the real bitterness, the deep agony of war is crowded. The hardships of campaigning are no doubt great, but robust men—and those who pass through the first two months are generally robust—can endure them, and often thrive under them; but where a man is struck down, with the hospital which is finally to shelter him, it may be, a hundred miles away in the rear, soldiering assumes an aspect to him which it never wore before.

The greatest amount of suffering and loss of life falls to the lot of those who have broken bones or wounded joints, especially of the lower limbs, for whom absolute quiet is the most needed remedy, and to whom every jar or motion involves anguish and danger, perhaps of lock-jaw or fatal inflammations. This sad necessity of transporting badly wounded men explains in a great degree the increased mortality of late in the military hospitals at Washington, and the unusual prevalence amongst the wounded of those fatal diseases tetanus and pyæmia, which, with exhaustion from chronic diarrhea, seem to be the most frequent causes of death.

The following extracts from letters from one of the medical members of the Commission, in daily conference with wounded soldiers, and their surgeons in hospitals and *in transitu*, will afford to our readers direct and reliable information as to their wants, and serve as a preface to a statement of the means which the Commission is employing to relieve them.

General Condition of the Wounded.

Washington, *June* 16, 1864.

In all the hospitals there is great attention given to the wounded. The special care which the stumps, compound fractures and severe wounds receive, is usually as complete as could be desired. But in almost every ward are found patients whose vital powers are too low to permit the progress of recuperative processes. This I will mention more particularly under the head of pyæmia, secondary hemorrhage, &c.

Mortality.

The death-rate is very high, and the causes are obvious; many of them are preventible. Pyæmia, and excessive exhaustion [from long fatigue of transportation, from excessive suppuration, etc.,] are chief causes of the excessive mortality. Out of 300 patients among latest arrivals from the Pamunkey, at a single hospital, 14 died within twenty-four hours. There is abundant evidence of inadequate care and subsistence of wounded men during their transportation. Some estimate of the sufferings endured in transportation, at the present time, may be formed from a remark just made to me by Dr. ———, surgeon in charge of ——— Hospital. He says: "On hearing some of these men speak of their sufferings while being transported from the battle-fields, and in their trans-shipment, I confess I can scarcely restrain myself from weeping."

The greatest sufferers are those who have compound fractures of the thigh. The means of support for such fractures are utterly inadequate. Drs. ———, ———, and many hospital surgeons, bear testimony to the needless waste of life, and the terrible increase of suffering, in consequence of the want of adequate means for support and care of thigh fractures, and the severe wounds of the leg and knee.

* * * * *

The Classes and Severity of Wounds.

The average grade of the severity of wounds now seen in the Hospitals of the Department of Washington is peculiarly severe. For example—in a hospital that I have visited this evening, there are 1,600 patients; and among them have been seen 107 compound fractures of the femur and 42 severe injuries of the knee-joint. The number of amputated limbs in that hospital is not less than 225.

Conservative surgery has a wide field in such hospitals, and when we note the death-rate, we intuitively judge that the proportion of limbs transported northward from the field, for the benefit of such conservative treatment, is far too large. But this hasty judgment may be erroneous, for the surgeon in charge of the 107 broken femora and the 42 gun-shot knee wounds, says he hopes to save many of these men who have survived five days after arrival; yet he has seen 45 patients die in hospital in a single day—nearly all from the exhaustion of transportation.

The fact respecting these severe wounds of the femur, &c., appears to be that there is an enormous waste of life and an amount of bodily anguish that cannot be described, that we may do much to prevent. I confess that until adequate means to this end are applied, my sleep at night will be disturbed by thoughts upon the subject.

Any successful efforts that may be put forth by surgeons or the Commission to attain the object I now mention, will be to me a cause of greater gratification than the reception of any favors the world can bestow upon myself.

You may judge that every surgeon in charge of the hospitals here urges that something be done quickly and effectively for improvement in the transportation of patients who must be sent northward from the field with such wounds.

Our efforts to supply materials for splints, &c., are not in vain.* The zinc will be at first most used, but the gypsum, and the board splint and litter for lashing both limbs and pelvis will be found more valuable. A large number of stout tin cans (3 galls. each) have been sent forward to-day, filled with calcined gypsum, &c., &c.

* * * * *

* SUGGESTIONS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE PROVISIONAL SPLINTS.

As the object sought is to afford a suitable support to fractured limbs during transportation, it may be desirable to make the splints longer and stronger than would be necessary for patients in hospital. To add strength to the perforated zinc splint, the strips may be doubled, or a light strip of wood may be applied externally in the direction of the shaft of the bone. The cut edges of the zinc may be pressed back by applying the back of the shears against the margin of the metal when resting upon the angle of a board or table. Angles in the splints may be made by *cuts* or by *V's* in the margins. Fine oakum or old cloths may be used for padding.

The firmness of the Gypsum Splints may readily be increased by increasing the number of thicknesses of the saturated cloth.

THE MODE OF APPLYING THE GYPSUM SPLINTS.

The following plain directions have been suggested by a surgeon who has had ample experience in their use:

"The limb is first shaven or slightly oiled; a piece of old coarse washed muslin is next selected, of a size so that when folded about four thicknesses it is wide enough to envelop more than half of the circumference of the limb. The solution of plaster is then to be prepared. Fine, well dried, white plaster had better be selected, and before using, a small portion should be mixed with water in a spoon and allowed "to set," with a view of ascertaining the length of time requisite for that process. If it is over five minutes, a small quantity of common salt had better be dissolved in the water before adding the plaster. The more salt added, the sooner will the plaster "set." If delay be necessary, the addition of a few drops of carpenter's glue or mucilage will subserve that end. Equal parts of water and plaster are the best

Pyæmia.

This is the greatest source of mortality in the hospitals here. It is found everywhere, and is the greatest source of concern to all intelligent surgeons. * * * In this class of patients the powers of assimilation break down, and unless rallied before the initial chill, all chances of life are lost. For a certain class of such patients the Sanitary Commission must supply a pure brandy, and otherwise aid in providing special diet.

Among the best informed surgeons, the opinion prevails that the only preventive measures that can be successfully adopted against this blood-poisoning, &c., which is termed *pyæmia*, must be such as will fortify the wounded man against morbid changes, and give him vigor and appetite, anti-scorbutic and appetizing diet, in short. And this is demanded *in the field, in ambulances, and on transports*, no less than in the General Hospitals. Let fresh vegetables and fruits, and easily assimilated nourishment be always at hand for the wounded if we would hope to diminish the prevalence of pyæmia.

* * * * * *

proportions. The plaster is sprinkled in the water and gradually mixed with it. The cloth, unfolded, is then immersed in the solution and well saturated; it is then to be quickly folded as before, arranged and laid on a flat surface, such as a board or a table, and smoothed once or twice with the hand in order to remove any irregularities of its surface, and then, with the help of an assistant, applied to the posterior surface of the limb. The portion extending below the heel is turned up on the sole of the foot, and the sides folded over the dorsum and a fold made at the ankle on either side, and a roller bandage applied pretty firmly over all. The limb is then to be held in a proper position, (extension being made if necessary by the surgeon,) until the plaster becomes hard. The time required in preparing the cloth, mixing the plaster, and applying the casing to the limb, need not to take more than fifteen minutes. After the plaster is firm and the bandage removed, we will have a solid plaster of Paris case partially enveloping the limb, leaving a portion of its anterior surface exposed to view. If any swelling occurs, evaporating lotions can be applied to the exposed surface, and we can always easily determine the relation of the fractured ends. If necessary, an interior splint made of the same material, can be applied, and then both bound together with adhesive plaster, and if desirable a roller bandage over all. If the anterior splint is not used, two or three strips of adhesive plaster, one inch wide, or bands of any kind, may be applied around the casing, and will serve to keep it firmly adjusted."

Ordinarily the gypsum and the water are mixed in equal proportions, but they may be varied to suit the manipulator. Very *light* and *porous* splint casts may be made by preparing the plaster paste, as follows:

Gypsum, 75 parts, by weight.
Water, 100 parts, "
Starch, 1½ to 2 parts, "

The starch to be boiled clear, in a small quantity of water. If the "setting" of the plaster is too slow, add a little salt. A small proportion of viscid starch tends to delay the "setting" of the plaster, and it may be used for that purpose instead of glue. After the strips of cloth are cut and all is ready, the application of the materials and the completion of the work need not occupy more than ten minutes. Fenestræ or windows for drainage or for observation may be provided beforehand, by cutting the proper apertures in the strips of cloth before immersing them in the plaster paste.

Secondary Hemorrhage.

The frightful frequency and fatality of this accident is manifestly owing to pathological, or, rather to physiological causes, which the best surgery cannot prevent. It results more from low vitality than from any fault of surgeons. The ligated arteries and the clot-plugs in them, in patients dying of secondary hemorrhage, so far as I have examined, exhibit the evidences of degeneration, and the failure of reparative processes, simply a result of defective vitality and consequent delay of physiological repair in the wounded and ligated blood-vessel.

Whatever we can do to keep up healthy nutrition and the vigor of wounded men before and during their treatment in hospital tends directly to diminish this fearful accident, which by a sudden gush terminates the life of the patient and the fondest hopes of the faithful surgeon.

Low Vitality—Adynæmia.

Many days usually intervene between the reception of the patient from the transports and the beginning of recuperative processes in wounded parts. Secondary amputations of course do very badly in such conditions. In this period of low vitality from exhaustion, tetanus is daily occurring in the hospitals.

Tetanus.

The more I see of tetanus here the more evident it is that its prevention is peculiarly dependent upon the adequacy and faithfulness of supply from the sanitary stores of the Sanitary Commission. Warm clothing, quilts and bedding, with more care of wounded parts, will diminish the frequency of tetanus among the wounded. I see some cases daily. The number of cases rapidly diminishes with the general improvement of the wounds.

A certain per centage of cases of tetanus among such severe wounds may be inevitable, but the cold current of damp air, the exposure of the back, uncovered during transportation and in the ward; the want of sleep and want of digestive power, are among the conditions that the supplies and agencies of the Sanitary Commission most directly reach.*

The regular returns will be made from all the hospitals, and next year it will be ascertained and reported that pyæmia, tetanus, secondary hemorrhage, and fatal

* Under the auspices of the Commission the distinguished physiologist and physician, Dr. C. E. Brown-Séquard, was induced to visit Washington to lecture on tetanus and the effects on the nervous system of severe hemorrhage. The substance of the lecture, which was delivered on the 14th of June to a large body of the medical staff of the army and navy at the Smithsonian Institution, the Commission is about to publish for distribution to medical officers, as one of its series of medical and surgical monographs.

diarrhea were very prevalent, and caused most of the deaths in the hospitals. But inadequate efforts will be made this year to remove, diminish, or anticipate the causes. The latter is a legitimate function of the Sanitary Commission.

* * * * *

In reference to the second point, viz., improvement of the local atmosphere of wards, a barrel of carbolic acid has been received, and turned over to the proper officer for experimental use, in accordance with Prof. Gibbs' suggestion that it promises more than any other disinfecting agent. The result will be definitely noted. The *Phenol Sodique*, which the same person has distributed to the hospitals, is a weak solution of crude carbolic acid, (15 per cent.,) and soda (8 per cent.) Prof. Gibbs' suggestion made two years ago, to use carbolic acid upon the walls of wards, as a paint or wash, is worthy of trial.

The fourth point—means of support for fractured limbs: 30 sheets of perforated zinc (7 feet by 10½ inches,) with shears for cutting and fitting the metal, have been sent to the sanitary depot in front for splints; 3 bbls. of statuary plaster, coarse cotton cloth, etc., 1 ton of oakum; and today a quantity of fracture litters, sent after consultation, to Dr. ——— and other active men in the Medical Staff.

The importance of this subject is impressive and clear when studied in connection with recent battle reports of the Medical Bureau.

In 20,930 wounds, 749 were compound fractures of femur; and of this number 480 were transported unamputated.

Again, of the knee there are 242 wounds, and of these 138 were transported unamputated. Of the leg, there were 948 gunshot fractures, of which 650 remained unamputated. There were at the same time, 566 gunshot wounds in the lungs and thorax.

The 1st Division, 6th Corps, in the Wilderness, (Fredericksburg observations,) had 34 compound fractures of the thigh, living, 20 amputations, and 14 transported unamputated. It has been found that any one of these transported fractures must be moved, off and on, (unless the bunk or bed goes with the sufferer,) at least 14 times before resting in a general hospital. Often the number of movements is much more! Very few of the wounded thighs and knees now and recently brought to Washington, have any supporting appliances.

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WASHINGTON, *June* 23, 1864.

MY DEAR DOCTOR—Since I last wrote to you there have been several practical questions examined in the hospitals here, with reference to improved means and more successful efforts to save life and mitigate suffering. Let me briefly mention a few points which I think should be acted upon by the Executive Committee without delay.

How can the Commission aid in preventing the present fearful rate of mortality from pyæmia in these hospitals?

Whatever we would successfully attempt for this purpose must be brought to bear before the fatal blood-poisoning and death of bone occur in the patient.

I have just been examining the official report of some thirty deaths from pyæmia in a single hospital of 1,200 beds, and one of the best in the department. Nearly all of these have occurred since the 1st of June. All occurred in patients who had fractured or amputated bones. The greater proportion of the cases occurred in patients that had good chances of surviving, had not the malady here mentioned supervened.

No medication nor care has yet saved a single life among the hundreds I have seen suffering from pyæmia.

Declining all discussion of the histology and the causes of this fatal pest of the hospitals, let me say that good reasons exist for believing that the only available means of diminishing the prevalence of this accident, (as it may justly be termed,) of the surgery and wounds of bone, are—

1st. Improvement of the diet of the patients from the hour of their becoming accessible to the Sanitary Commission on the field, in transports, and in hospitals.

2d. Special means for improving the local atmosphere of the wards, etc.. in hospitals.

3d. The establishment of hospitals at higher altitudes and in healthier localities.

4th. By supplying more adequate material aid to the surgeons in the field for the support and care of fractured bones.

To each of these four points I beg that the Commission give intelligent attention.

To the first, second and fourth, I am giving close attention; the third cannot be reached, except through the War Department and the Medical Bureau. But I know that Drs. Cuyler, McDougall, Hamlin, and the best officers of the Staff, hold the same views that I shall soon express to the Commission on this subject.

Now, what can we do to meet the first want of the patients who are liable to the occurrence of pyæmia? We can do much.*

* To insure the army a more varied diet when it should reach its new base on the James River, the following anti-scorbutic stores were sent in May, from New York, and stored in Baltimore:

4,291 galls. pickl'd tomatoes,	4,162 galls. pickles,
51,812 lbs. canned tomatoes,	3,580 galls. pickl. onions,
1,106 galls. curried cabbage,	12,060 lbs. apple pulp,
671 bbls. dried apples,	2,400 boxes portable lemonade.
15,168 galls. saur kraut,	

In addition to the above, the following consignment of similar food, has thus far during June, (25th instant,) been sent to the Army in Virginia:

The Commission can at once procure and offer to the hospitals, a car load of fresh vegetables and the best fruits of the season, daily.

Secondly, we may greatly improve the special diet of each hospital by systematizing our special diet kitchens, and by giving, through those kitchens, the aid that is needed in the preparation and distribution of the fruits and the more important vegetables. * * * *

WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

OUR OPERATIONS IN GEORGIA.

Dr. Read writes to Dr. Newberry, from Chattanooga, June 2:

Goods as needed, have been, with few exceptions, promptly furnished.

Gen. Hooker and Gen. Schofield have each furnished one team, to be used under the direction of the agents, connected with the respective corps, while the surgeons of the 4th and 14th corps, in charge of division hospitals, are furnished with orders on the storeroom at Acworth, and they send directly for such stores as they need.

Goods distributed to the wounded the very hour they are brought from the battle-field, are much more highly appreciated by them and by their surgeons, than when given to them a week later, at hospitals in the rear.

I am not sure they do more good, only as they come when all is confusion—come unexpectedly, and thus show,

"'Tis not the extent of aid that stamps its worth,
But the nice hour, at which that aid is bestowed."

As I passed on my return, the rooms we have occupied and vacated successively as the army advanced, I was more forcibly than ever impressed with the magnitude of our work.

First, a storeroom and hospital at Ringgold; then one at Dalton, from which goods in large quantities are taken to the field hospitals west of Resaca; then the wounded were moved to Resaca, and rooms opened there; soon the army passed on to Kingston, and halting for a day or two to load stores, ours were forwarded and rooms opened. Here, again, teams were loaded for the advance, and what stores could not be carried were sent back, and we were to leave the railroad and our base of supplies, not expecting for sometime to communicate with the rear.

Passing over Pumpkinvine Creek, we again have severe fighting, lasting several days, in the vicinity of Dallas. This resulted in giving us the railroad to Acworth, and soon after, for five miles further to Big Shanty. Acworth is our last depot, where we have now ample supplies for present wants. We shall work and trust, hoping that as more are wanted, they will be furnished. But we have often been so nearly exhausted, that we have suffered greatly, lest we should be called upon for help and not be able to afford it.

Gen. Howard has supplied his corps by giving one of his teams from headquarters loading at Kingston, and sending back there again when necessary.

I left Dr. Brucedritt with Gen. McPherson's command; Mr. Fairchild with Gen. Palmer's; Mr. Crary with Gen. Schofield's, and Mr. Hobblet with Gen. Hooker's and Gen. Howard's—who will also in my absence, have general supervision of the work. Every possible effort has been made to furnish the goods promptly, and the efforts have been successful.

The list of casualties has never been so promptly obtained; it has been furnished and forwarded in almost every instance, within twenty-four hours from the time of action. The list is obtained from the hospital record, or from the slips used by the surgeons for their entries, as the wounded were taken from the ambulances. But since I have come back here I have been astonished and sadly disappointed to find, that lists which I supposed had already reached you, had just arrived here.

* * * * *

So long as we continue to fight this battle, so long must we have a large amount of supplies, of the same kind as previously indicated, viz.: milk, beef, spirits, crackers, rags and bandages, lemons, farina, sugar, tea, etc. Nothing that we have comes amiss. Arm-slings are of special value.

23,789 galls. pick. cucumbers,	73 bbls. potatoes,
8,550 galls. pickled onions,	8 bbls. prunes,
1,050 galls. sauer kraut,	100 bbls. onions,
428 galls. pick. tomatoes,	301 boxes lemons,
142,444 lbs. canned tomatoes,	25 boxes oranges,
180 lbs. tamarinds,	50 half bbls. porter,
235 bbls. dried apples,	2,040 bottles ess. ginger,
19 bbls. dried fruit,	90 bottles lemon juice.

And beyond this, the Associate Secretary for the East has been directed to send to that army, for twenty days to come, $1,000 worth of fresh vegetables daily.

We shall aid in feeding men on the road between Acworth and Nashville.

The number of sick and wounded is large, but seems to me to be small, when we take into account what the army has done. For forty-five days they have been constantly fighting, or living prepared to fight. Some have fought each day; they have made many miles of fortifications; have slept with little covering in the trenches, and for most of the time there has been constant rain and deep mud, but they live in hope, and are kept up by excitement. A successful result to the campaign will see many more sick than now, while defeat, with all its distressing influences, would be disastrous.

But we hope for success, and expect it. I send this by Prof. Hosford. I shall wait here a day or two, and if better, return to the front; if unable to do that, shall go to Louisville, expecting to go home for a time. I do not desire to do this, until this campaign is ended.

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THE MISSISSIPPI.

Mr. Way writes from Memphis, June 24th:

We have had no great battles fought in this department during the past month; still we all have been kept quite busy.

First, came the troops from the ill-fated Red River expedition, who had been on the move for the past few months, without being where they could obtain a supply of vegetables, and for weeks on short rations. We were able, on their arrival here, thanks to our kind, generous friends at the North, to issue a bountiful supply of vegetables to the regiments, and to give to their sick delicacies and other things needed in the regimental hospitals.

Next came the survivors of the expedition under Gen. Sturgis, defeated at Guntown, Mississippi. These men were in a terrible condition after a running fight of over a hundred miles, and many of them without food for three days. We issued largely to them on their arrival here.

In the meantime, a large number of hundred day troops have arrived, and the change of habits and climate, with mumps, measles, &c., has caused a large amount of sickness. These as well as other troops are appealing to us for supplies for their regimental hospitals. There are in this vicinity over thirty thousand troops; of these about three thousand are sick in general and regimental hospitals. In supplying the great demand on us for all these, our stores are nearly exhausted.

We ask that our necessities may not be forgotten, as the importance of having a good supply has not been so great for the past fifteen months as at present.

Another large expedition left here four days ago and are opening the Memphis and Charleston railroad towards Corinth. The advance is about fifty miles from here. They are skirmishing continually, and every train brings in more or less wounded.

[Large shipments have been made and were on the way when this letter was written.]

Mr. Grant writes from the same place, June 17th, 1864:

I have been intending every day since my return from St. Louis to send you a report of my operations at this point, but for various reasons have delayed it until now. We have had a constant influx of sick and wounded from the army of the lower Mississippi, besides many from the late expedition to Corinth. Our General Hospitals are now quite full, containing in the aggregate, more than 2,200 patients. The number of late has greatly increased in all of them, except the small-pox, in which there has been a rapid dimunition, as you will observe by reference to the hospital reports. This is usually the case during the warm weather of summer. Thus you see there is abundant work for all hands, and as work is more important than reports, I hope you will excuse the delay in writing.

To make a second or third report is a matter of some difficulty, for the reason that day after day, and week after week, our work is the *same*. Always similar, yet never monotoncus, because it is constantly changing. I am aware that this sounds paradoxical, yet it is strictly true.

Please listen for a moment to an account of the daily work of a hospital visitor. He goes to one of the hospitals at 8 A. M. and begins his labors, talking with the sick and wounded, cheering the despondent with hopes of better days, always turning to

them the bright side of the picture, and anon, comforting the dying with those consolations which Christianity alone can give.

Again, in the convalescent ward, he must listen to the complaints of those who are no longer sick, and to the accounts of their wants, fancied or real, explaining to some that the regulations complained of are absolutely necessary, and consoling others with the promise of speedy relief.

Occasionally with pencil, he makes memoranda of what needs further attention.

To-morrow it will be the same; yet as he is conversing with different men, and encountering constantly varying difficulties, the work is always changing. At times his duty takes him to the room of the surgeon in charge, and as delicately as possible he calls attention to certain cases. "Here is a poor fellow who will die if he stays here; but if he could go home to his wife or mother for 30 or 60 days, he would recover. The Northern air would brace him up. Would it be contrary to regulations to grant him a furlough?"

This is a delicate duty and requires care and tact. Here is another man in the convalescent ward who has received a wound in the knee, and the sinovia has escaped from the joint. He is permanently disabled and wants a discharge, and when obtained, he needs some help in getting started home.

Cases requiring any articles from the sanitary stores are supplied after consulting with the Agent of the Commission.

I have made no mention of the instances of special relief, for the furloughs and discharges are in the morning reports of the General Hospitals, and the stores distributed are on the returns of Capt. Way.

This work is fatiguing, and after a day's labor the mind and body need rest. In visiting our army hospitals one finds some things to condemn, and which it would be well to remedy if it were possible.

Unfortunately they are beyond the control of the Sanitary Commission and its agents. One of these, is the rough manner in which some surgeons talk to and handle the sick and wounded. Such conduct in private practice would not be tolerated. They surely have forgotten the old adage—"A kind word to the sick is better than physic." In other respects our hospitals are well kept, being under the control of military officers, and subject to military regulations, there is great uniformity in all their proceedings. Neatness, cleanliness, careful attention to the wants of the sick, are the order of the day.

You are aware that the General Hospitals have what is called a "Hospital Fund," produced by commutation of surplus rations. This meets some of the pressing necessities of the sick, but I am informed by the surgeons, that owing to the high prices of everything in Memphis, it only buys about one-fourth of what it would purchase in the North. The deficiency is made up by the U. S. Sanitary Commission. *I have carefully sought for instances of misapplication of said stores by officers, without finding a single instance*, and am satisfied so far as this post is concerned, the charge is a gross slander. I write this because, having nothing to do personally with the stores of the Commission, I feel free to speak of the use made of them.

The vegetables distributed have been of incalculable advantage to the troops, especially those who have returned from the Red River Expedition, many of whom showed strong symptoms of scurvy.

The defects in the hospital records have given me a great deal of trouble. Sometimes I find a man's name and the date of his admission, but no record of what became of him afterwards. Of some who are credibly reported by friends as sent to a certain hospital, there is no record whatever. This was frequently the case when the hospitals were first established here; latterly, the registers have been kept with greater care; and it is to be hoped, that in the future, we may not meet with the same difficulty in tracing the sick. There has appeared in the eye ward of one of our hospitals a few cases of that peculiar affection of the visual organs called by medical men "hemeralopia," and always in those patients having scorbutic symptoms. As the disease is of obscure origin, its duration uncertain, and the rationale of its treatment not well understood, it is to be hoped that some of our surgeons who are competent to the task will carefully investigate the malady, with the view of elucidating its obscurities.

TESTIMONY OF MR. WHEELWRIGHT.

June 7, 1864.

JOSEPH PARISH, M. D.,
U. S. Sanitary Commission:

SIR—Having just concluded a visit to the "front," and particularly to the 9th Army Corps, made under the auspices of the Commission you represent, and which was rendered comparatively easy by the kind attention of its officers, I beg to state, in general, that having been furnished by Major-General Burnside with ample facilities for visitation and inspection, the objects of my journey have been satifactorily accomplished.

I have had occasion, during several days, to notice the demeanor of officers and men, not only "under fire," but while encountering some of those hardships which are almost inseparable from war, and while expecting to witness courage, endurance and patient submission to fearful privations, I confess I was not prepared for the cheerful alacrity, very eagerness, with which all were met. And now at the conclusion of my visit, I can appreciate fully a remark of Gen. Burnside, when speaking to me of a veteran regiment which had just returned from its furlough to the field with but 80 men, "Eighty guns! that is equal to 4,000 men."

I have found no such patriotism at home as I have witnessed in the field, and return to Massachusetts to urge my fellow-citizens to redouble their exertion to mitigate the sufferings, and as far as possible, present the hardships of these gallant inheritors of the spirit, fortitude and devotion of their fathers. A most noticeable fact was the gratitude of the soldiers (and officers as well,) to the Sanitary Commission for its efficient and abundant labors. "We never should have got along without them," was the universal testimony of high officials, medical and military; and the warm greeting of the private, "How are you Sanitary?" bore witness that the fierce rage of battle had not blunted the finer feelings of his heart.

With many thanks for the facilities afforded me by the Commission, and the courtesies extended by officials,

Very faithfully yours,
H. B. WHEELWRIGHT,
General Agent, Board of State Charities, for Massachusetts.

A LETTER FROM JOHN STUART MILL.

The editorial committee of "Our Daily Fare," of Philadelphia, have received the following admirable letter from John Stuart Mill:

I am sincerely thankful to the editing committee for including me among those from whom they have invited a public expression of sympathy with the cause in which the free states of America are so heroically shedding their best blood.

The war, justifiable and laudable even if it had continued to be, as it was at first, one of mere resistance to the extension of slavery, is becoming, as it was easy to foresee it would, more and more a war of principle for the complete extirpation of that curse. And in proportion as this has become apparent, the sympathies of nearly all in Europe whose approbation is worth having, are resuming their natural course, and the cause of the North will soon have no enemies on this side of the Atlantic, but those who prefer any tyranny, however odious, to a triumph of popular government.

It would be unpardonable did I omit on an occasion like this, to express my warmest feelings of admiration for the Sanitary Commission. History has afforded no other example—though it is to be hoped that it will hereafter afford many—of so great a work of usefulness extemporized by the spontaneous self-devotion and organizing genius of a people, altogether independently of the government.

But while the present struggle has called into brilliant exercise all the high qualities which the institutions of the American republic have made general among her citizens, it has also laid open—as it is the nature of trying times to do—all the weak points in her national habits, and in the working of her institutions.

These are, doubtless, far better known to thoughtful Americans than they are likely to be to any foreigner; and this great historical crisis will be doubly blessed if it directs attention to them. In all states of society the most serious danger is that the national mind should go to sleep on the self-satisfied notion that all is right with it; but the great awakening of the public conscience which is taking place on the one political and social abomination, which has done more than all other causes together to demoralize American politics, has probably removed all danger of this sort for one generation at least, and warrants the hope that the American people will not rest satisfied with the great advantages which no other people and no other Government possesses in so high a degree, but will resolve that their democracy shall not be behind any nation whatever in those elements of good government which have been thought to find a more congenial soil in other states of society, and under other political institutions.

JOHN STUART MILL.

AVIGNON, *May* 25, 1864.

THE COMMISSION ON THE JAMES RIVER AND THE APPOMATTOX.

The following are extracts from an interesting series of letters from Dr. Parrish:

JAMES RIVER, VA., *June* 17, 1864.

Having been furnished with a pass from the Secretary of War and of the Navy, our little fleet took a new start this morning from the "Roads," from which I wrote last; and we are now passing up the James. Intelligence has been received by the arrival of an agent, that our advance boat, which left White House on the 12th instant, has not only reached City Point with her stores and agents, but has sent forward men to the front with comforts and support. This was accomplished before the Army of

the Potomac had crossed the James, and the wisdom of the expedition is thus fully justified. Had there been twelve hours delay, it is probable the pontoon bridges would have obstructed the passage of the river, and our stores would not have gone forward. It was known, however, that at Bermuda Hundred there was already a Sanitary base, with a branch at City Point, and another at Point of Rocks, which was doing good service for the Army of Virginia and North Carolina, and which would withhold nothing that it could give for the Army of the Potomac.

We have, however, saved that necessity, being in advance with a boat load of supplies and thirty-three auxiliary relief agents.

We run up the river at about eight miles an hour, passing Harrison's Landing and Powhattan Fort, and found an anchorage near where, but yesterday, the last train of the Army of the Potomac crossed the south side of the James. Not far from this spot was lying the late rebel ram Atlanta, with her angry guns, and most awkward decks. Evening is upon us, and our family gather in the still twilight, for their accustomed devotions, the opening hymn—

"I would not live alway."

Most of the company appreciated the appropriateness of this selection. It was sung with solemnity. After the prayer, it was stated that a young comrade of the auxiliary relief corps, who but a few days since had left the White House for his home in Massachusetts, had died a few hours after reaching there. Appropriate remarks were made by those who knew him best, and his calm and confiding resignation was touchingly described by the friend who attended him on his homeward journey. The following preamble was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, God, who ordereth all things, has seen fit to take to himself, Charles H. Stanley, our brother and co-laborer in our Christian work; therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That we express in a public manner, our great sorrow at the loss of one whose life was so full of hope and promise.

2. *Resolved*, That we consider his faithfulness in the discharge of his duties in the hospitals, his hearty co-operation in all plans for the comfort of our wounded, and especially his love for their souls, an example to be followed by every member of the Commission.

3. *Resolved*, That by this sudden death, we are warned that the time for life's work is short, for the night cometh, wherein no man can work; and that we endeavor by our efforts in behalf of the suffering, to advance the Gospel of Christ, whom the deceased loved, and to whose service his life was devoted.

4. *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the parents of the deceased, as expressive of our deep sympathy in their great affliction, and also that they be published.

Our young friend Stanley has left behind him an influence for good, that will be felt by all who treasure the memory of his virtues.

June 18th.—To-day we reach City Point. The river is active with stirring vessels; troops are arriving, hospitals are transferred from the White House to this new base, and the wharves are being loaded with stores and ammunition from Government steamers, while the Commission fills its modest place in the lively panorama. Cannonading is heard in the vicinity of Petersburg, a few wounded are coming in, and the benevolent visitors from all quarters, are beginning their work. The Commission has had its agents and stores here for more than six weeks. A new feeding station is established from the steamer Grey, which arrived on Tuesday last, and to-day the bountiful supplies from our fleet are being called for. The Elizabeth will be away to-morrow, for a load of anti-scorbutics, which awaits her at Norfolk. The front, some six miles away, is also supplied, and immediately on our arrival an additional supply was sent forward. Our dressers were going about among the hospitals very soon after our landing, and are now still occupied. Thus the work—the old work, at the new place, has commenced, and there will be much service, even before the corps hospitals are located.

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City Point, Va., *June* 19, 1864.

My last closed with our arrival at this place, and you will now expect an account of the situation. From the anchorage it may be discovered in its general aspect. City Point is on the south side of the James River, at the mouth of the Appomattox. Two miles distant, on the opposite shore, is Bermuda Hundred, situated on the curve which unites the line of the two rivers. The James pursues its northwatd course, and is imposing and inviting. The Appomattox is the water route to Petersburg, and is a winding stream lined with pines and cypress. The currents of both are united at the little promontory, on the summit of which stands the town, the most attractive building and grounds being on the extreme point, a part of which is used as headquarters by the general-in-chief. The houses are shell-marked, and deserted by the citizens, and are now chiefly used as hospitals.

So far as the Commission is concerned, the situation is interesting, and should be understood before the establishment of a new base. As you know, this department is

designated the "Department of the Peninsula and Norfolk," and is under the charge of Dr. McDonald. Its base of supplies is Norfolk. Its line begins at Wilson's Landing on the James, about twenty-five miles below City Point, embracing Fort Powhattan, Bermuda Hundred, and following up the James to Dutch Gap, where lies the extreme right of Maj.-Gen. Butler's line. Running up the Appomattox from City Point it takes in Spring Hill, crosses the river at Point of Rocks, and then continues overland to Dutch Gap again. The line of earthworks covers about seven and a half miles, and the line from the base to the extreme point northward is about one hundred and twenty miles. The Commission has three stations in this department, not including Norfolk and Portsmouth, viz.: at City Point, Bermuda Hundred and Point of Rocks. There are thirteen relief agents, who feed the wounded as they come in; and when they are not coming, visit the different regiments and garrisons to ascertain the wants of the men and supply them, read and write for them, and hold religious meetings among them. I think I mentioned in a late letter, that no meetings were held by the Commission for soldiers in the Army of the Potomac, but I find that it is the custom to do so in the Peninsular and Norfolk Department. The religious work at White House and other places, has been mainly private, quiet, and unobserved by those who are not familiar with it. The propriety of holding meetings in hospitals is, to say the least, very doubtful, as the men require rest and quiet; and yet the testimony of those who have made more through trial of them is considered favorable.

At Point of Rocks there is a provisional and a depot Hospital, at Norfolk and Portsmouth four, besides a Lodge, at which there were dispensed in the month of May 1,112 meals and 386 lodgings. At Yorktown and Bermuda there are hospitals also, and at Williamsburg the Asylum for the Insane, which is supplied from this department. Each regiment has a hospital for the sick only, the wounded being carried from the front where their wounds are first dressed, to Point of Rocks. There they receive a second dressing, and are sent to Fortress Monroe. The supplies are, of course, distributed from Norfolk by steamer, the John R. Thompson being in the service of the Commission for that purpose.

To-day I took a tour of observation from this place to Point of Rocks, Bermuda Hundred and Jones' Landing, the latter about fifteen miles above here on the James. A number of gunboats on the way needed supplies, and in obedience to the recent order concerning the Navy, they were furnished with what they required. At Jones' Landing a small force was stationed to guard the forage and stores which are shipped to that point, and an expedition about starting out through a wasted country, was furnished with a few comforts that they will need before their return. At Point of Rocks and Bermuda Hundred there are stations adjacent to hospitals from which the Commission dispenses its stores directly to the men in the wards.

I have referred to a provisional Hospital; the term may need some explanation. As the General Hospitals at Washington and other points become crowded for room, those who are in condition for it are sent to Convalescent Camps, where they remain in process of recovery, and as these in turn become crowded, such as are the nearest well are sent to provisional Hospitals, and kept till they are able to rejoin their regiments. The men using such establishments may be from a great number of regiments, and are under care of surgeons specially detailed for the service. As they have no regular organization, they have no opportunity of drawing in the regular manner from Quartermaster or Commissary, except for army rations. Being often feeble men, or men with wounds partially healed, scarcely sick enough for hospital or well enough for service, they frequently suffer for want of the proper kind of supplies, and the Commission may be especially serviceable under such circumstances. This is one of the peculiar cases, of which but little is known by the public. * *

The hospitals will be located from one to two miles up the Appomattox. The tents will be pitched very soon; we must find wharfage at City Point, as there can be no landing place above, more than will be needed for hospital transports and purveyor's boats, and every wharf must be built. The whole ground has been carefully surveyed. I had the pleasure of accompanying the surveying party. Open fields, swamps, forests, roads, ravines, &c., were all traversed, and the conclusion reached that we must locate barges at the Point, and transport supplies to hospitals by wagons. Feeding stations are temporarily placed at the Point, to supply any immediate or temporary want, but as the several corps locate on their new ground, we shall follow and be ready to serve them, and place the feeding stations on the routes to steamboats. The auxiliary relief corps will soon be on the hospital ground, and the system formerly described will be at work.

In observing and locating, we discover a few trains of wounded coming in, and the tents are beginning to be occupied. The dressing party are out with their lint and bandages, rendering proper aid. Many of the troops are colored men. They endure their wounds as they have endured the struggles of the field, and with an endurance and heroism that is alike honora-

ble to their manhood and to their patriotism. By common consent it is admitted that no troops are more willing, none more valiant or victorious, than those of sable skin.

You will expect from me to-day some account of the hospital ground at this base. I premise my observations on this subject by the general remark that compared with the White House, it is far inferior. The fields are large, and the corn on some of them is about three feet high. This is a fine chance for the horses, and will do them good. It is perhaps quite as agreeable to them as strawberries and ice-cream would be to us, who, with dried apples and potatoes as our only stock of fruit and vegetables for table use, are content. The soil of the hospital tract is light and sandy, much like that of New Jersey on the Delaware shore. As the hospitals have no floors, and the dust is very light, there may be some disadvantage to the wounded on that account, as no one can pass to and fro among them without disturbing the dust, even within the wards. This will be remedied in a few days, after time is allowed to tramp and harden the ground.

Among the very first things to be done in locating a hospital is to find a burial spot. Already it has been chosen here. Just upon the crown of a slope that falls gently toward a wooded ravine, a little cemetery has been provided. Before sun-set to-day seven soldiers were buried. As our party passed over the ground these men were employed in the sad work of burial. They were covering one poor fellow under the sand, and two more were lying blanketed on the ground. As I lifted the cover from the face of one, the expression of composure was most striking. The dust and sweat of battle were still upon his brow, the wound upon the shoulder was carefully dressed, and he had died doubtless with but little suffering of body or mind.

* * * * *

The arrangement of the hospitals into corps and their division into separate departments, is similar to that at the White House. Their organization and that of the Commission maintain their previous relation to the hospitals, and it only remains for me to notice particularly the main feature of difference in the establishment of a floating hospital. You remember the large North River steamer "New World." She was hauled up to-day to a landing on the Appomattox to take on her freight of lacerated humanity. This is a great institution, free from dust and oppressive heat, yet rather too close in some parts for wounded men; yet it is an improvement. It has now about one thousand beds, which may be increased in an emergency to twelve or fifteen hundred. I spent some hours on board of her to-day, during the receipt of her patients, and had the pleasure of conducting the labors of a party of dressers, detailed from the auxiliary corps of the Commission, in the most valuable service of dressing wounds and feeding men. They labored assiduously from early in the afternoon till towards midnight, and the blessing conferred upon the sufferers was incalculable. The surgeon in charge and his assistants kindly placed at the disposal of these workers whatever they need to complete this supplementary labor. Letters were written to absent families, spiritual comfort administered to the dying, and the evening closed with much enduring satisfaction. I note below a few instances of personal interest:

No. 1.—A strong man, with both eyes blinded. A ball passed into the left temple, and had evidently destroyed or greatly injured the visual nerves. The eyes were protruded and closed—closed forever. Leaning over him to comfort him, by applications to the inflamed and protruding parts, the following conversation was had:

"My friend, you are seriously hurt. Do you suffer much pain?"

"I suffer some, but I consider myself very fortunate in not being as bad off as I hear some of my comrades are."

"That is very good of you, but really the loss of sight is a great affliction, and I feel for you very much."

"Yes, I know you do, but I am pretty lucky; I had six balls through my hat before I stopped this one, and now I have it in my head. I suppose I must keep it for a keepsake."

No. 2.—A boy of sixteen. He enlisted as a drummer-boy, and as the regiment to which he was attached were advancing, he pressed forward further than was prudent, and received a shot in the right arm. It was not a serious wound, but still caused much pain. He was asked if he did not want to go home now that he had suffered from the enemy. "Oh, no," said he, "That ain't me; I wouldn't shirk because I was hit; I mean to stick to it till the end."

"But would you not rather be at home with your mother, and let her dress your wound?"

"Well, sir, I'm willing to take my luck with the rest of 'em; I didn't come to fight; but as they did knock me, I won't complain."

"Dress my wound easy, sir; hold her up careful, and then let me sleep."

No. 3.—An aged man, shot in his breast, and dying. He is the father of nine living children. His wife is living, and she does not know his condition. After his wound is soothed and he is fed as far as he can bear, he is asked what else he will have done. The answer is, "write to my family if you please, sir; tell them about me, and tell them that I will soon see them at home."

He was informed that he would never see his earthly home again. "Well, if that is so," said he, "I must be content. I have tried to do right, and in serving my country, I hope I have done right, though I have often thought that if we were all what we should be, there would be no fighting with carnal weapons. Religion is *love*, the *right kind* of love; the *best kind*, sir, and I hope I love even my enemies, though I find it very hard to do so," &c., &c.

No. 4.—A slightly wounded man, young and vigorous. "What do you need, my friend?" "Only one thing, sir, beside my supper, which hasn't come round to me yet, and that is, that you will write to my wife, who will see that our regiment has been in the fight, and will, of course, think the rebs have hit me. Tell her, with my love, that they did, but they didn't do it to hurt; that I'm her husband yet, and the country is our country yet, and our flag is our flag yet, and I mean to stick to her, and the country, and the flag, till the very last."

So I might go on enumerating case after case of interest, but will mention but one more.

A lad of seventeen years, full size, and of older appearance; a bad wound in thigh.

"How came you into the service, my friend, so young as you are?"

"I wanted to come, sir; I thought I could do as well as some I knew that are older."

"Where are you from?"

"I was born, sir, in Pennsylvania, and when I am at home, I am a Pennsylvanian, but when I enlisted, I enlisted for my country; and now that I am here, my home is here; I belong to Uncle Sam, sir."

I furnish below a list of articles sent up with our dressers to the wounded in the boat. It is the first contribution towards the outfit for the vessel.*

June 22d.—A detail of dressers went again to the floating hospital, having been assigned by the surgeon in charge to different parts of the boat, so that there should be no confusion, the kindly offices of delegates of the Christian Commission were harmoniously incorporated with those of our own organization, and all together succeeded in supplementing the over-taxed service of the medical officers, so that all were attended to before they were re-shipped on the transports for Washington.

One word about the "New World." She is three stories high, the state rooms being used, as of old, and the grand saloon and machinery deck being now fitted out with rows of iron bedsteads, with white sheets and pillows, and fine white double blankets. An elevator is placed near the centre, between the gangways, for elevating the wounded from the first to either of the upper stories; the hatchway is large enough to take two stretchers or cots at a time. A detail of men work the ropes, while others are in readiness to carry them away to their respective wards.

It was a pleasure to witness the comparatively complete arrangements thus furnished by the Medical Department, which, with every other branch of the service has been improving constantly, with the ever-developing experiences of the trying years through which we have been passing.

City Point, Va., *June* 23*d*, 1864.

* * * * *

When men are disabled by wounds, the first thing is to get them off the field. Their comrades cannot stop to do this, their business being to fill the vacant spaces in the ranks and press on with the conflict. Here then is the necessity for a separate organization. The army regulation provides for it, by directing six stretcher bearers to go with each regiment, of not less than five hundred men and then ambulances, with two men attached to each. It is the duty of the stretcher-bearers to pick up the fallen and carry them to the ambulances, which are as near as possible to the scene, and return rapidly for others. They are then carried directly to the hospitals, which may be a mile or more from the battle line, and placed in the wards, there being another train of ambulances to carry those who have been attended to in hospitals to the base, which is several miles distant. Here they are classified; those who are but slightly wounded are retained to be sent back to service again; when others who are able are distributed by transports to Northern hospitals. Following them from the very beginning, are surgeons and assistant surgeons, the whole organization, its discipline, &c., being under the charge of the Medical Director.

There is a Chief of Corps Ambulance Train with the rank of Captain; another who is chief of Brigade Ambulance Train, and a third who has charge of the Regimental Train with the rank of first and second Lieutenant, respectively. A fact in this connection has been demonstrated in this campaign which is so noteworthy that I will insert it. It is this: that the stretcher-

* Requisition for 1,200 patients on "Floating Hospital New World."

2 bbls. bandages.	1 box tea and coffee.
1 " old rags.	508 cotton shirts.
31 bed pans.	250 " drawers.
4 boxes lemons.	344 " socks.
5 bbls. crackers.	144 lbs. farina.
Sponges and bed sacks in quantity.	100 tin cups.
2 boxes sherry wine.	24 wooden buckets.
2 " candles.	48 lanterns.
12 bottles brandy.	12 bottles whiskey.
20 prs. crutches.	400 fans.
220 pillow cases.	200 sheets.
1 roll rubber cloth.	80 cushions.
200 splints.	Quantity mosquito netting.
6 dippers.	6 tin pans.
36 table spoons.	6 tin pails.
12 urinals.	120 lbs. corn starch.

bearers have been unusually venturesome and brave, so much so, that in their eagerness to bring the wounded off without delay, several have lost their lives under the fire of the enemy.

Another fact equally praiseworthy is, that surgeons have sometimes entrenched themselves temporarily and in advance of their allotted places, so as to be foremost in rendering relief, and that none of the wounded have been sent to the base who have not been properly examined and attended to. An important feature of the field-hospital is its operating tent, and its medicine wagons. The tent has a table and a few needful appliances under the care of a man whose duty it is to keep it and the surgical instruments in good order and ready for service at any time. A medicine wagon is a curiosity, containing all the variety of medicines and utensils that are suitable for any ordinary drug shop. The bottles are compactly arranged in slides, so that they may be seen and handled, and yet be secure from breakage while on a march.

There are three chief operating surgeons selected to do the surgery of the corps, each one having an assistant, and all of them being chosen for their professional ability without reference to rank.

A steward is selected to collect pathological specimens, to prepare and preserve them. Another to make the record of wounds, deaths, &c., and report daily to the Medical Director.

A lieutenant of the line is chosen as commissary of hospital, whose duty it is to keep on hand one thousand rations and a small herd of beef cattle, of which there is no scarcity. Indeed, the men are asking for salt pork, and it would be a luxury for them in the way of change. The cattle are in good condition, and are killed as they are needed, so that the beef is fresh and good. The Commission is now furnishing to the men in trenches and field, quantities of "saur kraut," as a convenient and acceptable form of vegetable diet. A few potatoes are occasionally allowed in the ration, but too seldom to be of much service. Plenty of coffee and sugar are issued. Ice is common. It is abundant in hospitals and may be had by well troops. The ice-houses of the farmers, many of which are large and well fitted, furnish the supply.

I think I stated in a former letter that each Army Corps had two wagons belonging to the Commission. If so, I was in error. There is one wagon and one Relief Agent with each corps permanently. The agent occupies a tent alongside of the wagon, from which stores are issued to the different divisions, on the requisitions of surgeons or chaplains, or any responsible and trustworthy representative of the men. The delegates of the Christian Commission have the liberty of drawing from our stores, and of acting as distributors at their pleasure; and they use the privilege no more freely than it is granted. Each wagon may be replenished every other day by the supply train, which leaves the base to a designated spot in the vicinity of the hospitals every twenty-four hours, for the purpose of filling the demand. The base draws upon Washington; Washington receives from the people; and the people, true to the instincts of humanity, true to the interests of the country, have never yet withheld. They never will.

One feature may be noticed in what I have written concerning the front, that is not sufficiently regarded, viz., the purpose to keep the well men from getting sick, as they lie in the trenches and under shelter tents within reach of the enemy's guns. Many persons think that the supplies of the Commission are exclusively for the sick and wounded; and while it is true that the hospital delicacies, &c., are reserved for hospital cases, it is equally true that saur kraut, pickles, &c., are *not* adapted to hospital use. They are purchased for those who are not on sick call, but who might be, but for the vegetable diet which they so much need. There are now in store at this point one hundred and twenty-eight barrels of pickles, one hundred and twenty-three barrels of saur kraut, and forty kegs of curry and cabbage, subject to orders from the *front exclusively*. Perhaps the greatest necessity of the exposed men is woolen under clothing, of which large quantities are issued. The Government furnishes cotton clothing, but it is not so valuable as a health-preserver in this climate as woolen. There will be a large demand for flannel shirts and drawers, in addition to those needed for hospitals.

The spires and buildings of Petersburg are in view. The fortifications of the enemy are formidable in extent and construction. Having been routed from their outer lines, the opportunity for observing the works is undisturbed. That our forces captured them by a charge, is an evidence of valor for which the Union troops have already earned an unexampled reputation. A few faint and weary ones are found struggling back to the hospitals, or seeking rest and sleep in the tall pine forests which line the roadways. Ambulances are coming in and discharging their wounded, and other ambulances are going to the base with their loads of patient sufferers. Great trains of forage and ammunition are coming and empty ones going, till the roads are crowded and jammed with the cumbersome trains; the air is filled with dust, and the harsh roar of the guns rumbles among the pines with fearful power. Horsemen and footmen move along amid the clouds of sand and are almost unperceived. While Generals

and Colonels and troops are fighting, surgeons and stewards and Commissions are binding up the wounds and restoring the faint. Fields are desolated, houses are burned and burning, the population scattered, and thousands of widows and orphans are being made, for the breath of war breathes waste and destruction. * * *

At this base the labors of Sanitary agents are more arduous than at the White House. The hospitals are about two miles from the supplies on the boats. All the stores have to be transported by wagon for this distance, and when they reach their destination they are carried to the wards through clouds of dust and the most enervating heat, to the men directly. It is a matter of surprise that being unaccustomed to this kind of exposure, the gentlemen of the Commission endure as they do. The heat is most exhausting, the water poor, and the dust almost intolerable. One thought, however, sustains the heart and strengthens the will, and that is that the soldiers suffer far more, and endure suffering with a patience that forbids complaint on the part of those who minister to them.

I will close by noticing a little visitor who presented himself on board the barge this P. M. Constantine J————, a boy who says he is "eleven going on twelve;" his home is Indianapolis, Ind., his mother not living. Constantine is a very small boy, light hair, blue eyes, freckled face, bare footed and almost without clothing; he has been with the Second Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, and was brought here by its chaplain. The little fellow was enticed away from his home a year ago by soldiers, and has been following the army ever since, finally finding protection with the artillery. He is not home-sick; says he sometimes feels like going home, but likes the army very much. He describes the battle of Mine Hill with peculiar interest; says that several shell burst not far from him and scared him a little, but he "would'nt run." He says a Dutch captain tried to get him to run, but he would'nt do it, preferring to shield himself behind a stump and see it through. He is getting washed, and some clothing is being shortened to fit him, that he may be forwarded by to-morrow's messenger to the Washington office, and thence to his home.

I cannot well forbear writing an incident which touched me very much a few days since. It is well known that the Commission does not issue army clothing to men in the field, and yet if a soldier is pantless, he is very apt to come to the Commission to be supplied. One such came a few days since, and applied at the counter for a pair of pantaloons. There were none for him, and as he was turning away disconsolate, one of the auxiliary corps stepped up and said, "I have on a good pair of drawers besides these pants, you shall have the pants," and off they came, and were in a few moments on the soldier. By the aid of a few buttons the drawers were converted into respectable trousers, and the giver was more delighted apparently than the receiver.

A few days since I saw a poor little drummer boy come to the counter for a pair of shoes. He asked modestly, and on being told that the last pair had been sent away, he replied, "Well, I can get along a little while longer with these, but they are hardly worth putting on," and was about to go away, and I noticed the eyes of an agent to fill with the swelling tide from his heart as he called the boy back, and said, "Here, my good fellow, you shan't go without new shoes, take mine." He was not permitted, however, to part with them, but another stepped forward and furnished the means of purchasing a pair, (not soldiers' shoes,) from a party who had them for sale, so that the drummer boy went away satisfied.

NOTES ON NURSING.

OBSERVATION OF THE SICK.

Almost all superstitions are owing to bad observation, to the *post hoc, ergo propter hoc;* and bad observers are almost all superstitious. Farmers used to attribute disease among cattle to witchcraft; weddings have been attributed to seeing one magpie, deaths to seeing three; and I have heard the most highly educated now-a-days draw consequences for the sick closely resembling these.

Another remark: although there is unquestionably a physiognomy of disease as well as of health; of all parts of the body, the face is perhaps the one which tells the least to the common observer or the casual visitor. Because, of all parts of the body, it is the one most exposed to other influences, besides health. And people never, or scarcely ever, observe enough to know how to distinguish between the effect of exposure, of robust health, of a tender skin, of a tendency to congestion, of suffusion, flushing, or many other things. Again, the face is often the last to show emaciation. I should say that the hand was a much surer test than the face, both as to flesh, color, circulation, &c. It is true that there are some diseases which are only betrayed at all by something in the face, *e. g.*, the eye or the tongue, as great irritability of brain by the appearance of the pupil of the eye. But we are talking of casual, not minute, observation. And few minute observers will hesitate to say that far more untruth than truth is conveyed by the oft repeated words, he looks well, or ill, or better or worse.

Wonderful is the way in which people will go upon the slightest observation, or often upon no observation at all, or upon some saw which the world's experience, if it had any, would have pronounced utterly false long ago.

I have known patients dying of sheer pain, exhaustion, and want of sleep, from one of the most lingering and painful diseases known, preserve, till within a few days of death, not only the healthy color of the cheek, but the mottled ap-

pearance of a robust child. And scores of times have I heard these unfortunate creatures assailed with, "I am glad to see you looking so well." "I see no reason why you should not live till ninety years of age." "Why don't you take a little more exercise and amusement," with all the other commonplaces with which we are so familiar.

There is, unquestionably, a physiognomy of disease. Let the nurse learn it.

The experienced nurse can always tell that a person has taken a narcotic the night before by the patchiness of the color about the face, when the re-action of depression has set in; that very color which the inexperienced will point to as a proof of health.

There is, again, a faintness, which does not betray itself by the color at all, or in which the patient becomes brown instead of white. There is a faintness of another kind, which, it is true, can always be seen by the paleness.

But the nurse seldom distinguishes. She will talk to the patient who is too faint to move, without the least scruple, unless he is pale, and unless, luckily for him, the muscles of the throat are affected and he loses his voice.

Yet these two faintnesses are perfectly distinguishable, by the mere countenance of the patient.

Again, the nurse must distinguish between the idiosyncracies of patients. One likes to suffer out all his suffering alone, to be as little looked after as possible. Another likes to be perpetually made much of and pitied, and to have some one always by him. Both these peculiarities might be observed and indulged much more than they are. For quite as often does it happen that a busy attendance is forced upon the first patient, who wishes for nothing but to be "let alone," as that the second is left to think himself neglected.

Again, I think that few things press so heavily on one suffering from long and incurable illness, as the necessity of recording in words from time to time, for the information of the nurse, who will not otherwise see, that he cannot do this or that, which he could do a month or a year ago. What is a nurse there for if she cannot observe these things for herself? Yet I have known—and known too among those—and chiefly among those—whom money and position put in possession of every thing which money and position could give—I have known, I say, more accidents, (fatal, slowly or rapidly,) arising from this want of observation among nurses than from almost anything else. Because a patient could get out of a warm bath alone a month ago—because a patient could walk as far as his bell a week ago, the nurse concludes that he can do so now. She has never observed the change; and the patient is lost from being left in a helpless state of exhaustion, till some one accidentally comes in. And this not from any unexpected apoplectic, paralytic, or fainting fit, (though even these could be expected far more, at least, than they are now, if we did but observe.) No, from the unexpected, or to be expected, inevitable, visible, calculable, uninterrupted increase of weakness, which none need fail to observe.

Again, a patient not usually confined to bed, is compelled by an attack of diarrhea, vomiting, or other accident, to keep his bed for a few days; he gets up for the first time, and the nurse lets him go into another room, without coming in, a few minutes afterwards, to look after him. It never occurs to her that he is quite certain to be faint, or cold, or to want something. She says, as her excuse, Oh, he does not like to be fidgetted after. Yes, he said so some weeks ago; but he never said he did not like to be "fidgetted after," when he is in the state he is in now; and if he did, you ought to make some excuse to go in to him. More patients have been lost in this way than is at all generally known, viz., from relapses brought on by being left for an hour or two faint, or cold, or hungry, after getting up for the first time.

Yet it appears that scarcely any improvement in the faculty of observing is being made. Vast has been the increase of knowledge in pathology —that science which teaches us the final change produced by disease on the human frame—scarce any in the art of observing the signs of the change while in progress. Or, rather, is it not to be feared that observation, as an essential part of medicine, has been declining?

Which of us has not heard fifty times, from one or another, a nurse, or a friend of the sick, aye, and a medical friend, too, the following remark: "So A. is worse, or B. is dead. I saw him the day before; I thought him so much better: there certainly was no appearance from which one could have expected so sudden (?) a change." I have never heard any one say, though one would think it the more natural thing, "There *must* have been *some* appearance, which I should have seen if I had but looked; let me try and remember what there was, that I may observe another time." No, this is not what people say. They boldly assert that there was nothing to observe, not that their observation was at fault.

Let people who have to observe sickness and death look back and try to register in their observation the appearances which have preceded relapse, attack, or death, and not assert that there were none, or that there were not the right ones.

It falls to few ever to have had the opportunity of observing the different aspects which the human face puts on at the sudden approach of certain forms of death by violence; and as it is a knowledge of little use, I only mention it here as being the most startling example of what I mean. In the nervous temperament the face becomes pale, (this is the only recognized effect;) in the sanguine temperament purple; in the billious yellow, or every manner of color in patches. Now, it is generally supposed that paleness is the one indication of almost any violent change in the human being, whether from terror, disease, or anything else. There can be no more false observation. Granted, it is the one recognized livery, as I have said—*de rigueur* in novels, but nowhere else.

A want of the habit of observing conditions and an inveterate habit of taking averages are each of them often equally misleading.

Men whose profession like that of medical men leads them to observe only, or chiefly, palpable and permanent organic changes are often just as wrong in their opinion of the result as those who do not observe at all. For instance, there is a broken leg; the surgeon has only to look at it once to know; it will not be different if he sees it in the morning to what it would have been had he seen it in the evening. And in whatever conditions the patient is, or is likely to be, there will still be the broken leg, until it is set. The same

with many organic diseases. An experienced physician has but to feel the pulse once, and he knows that there is aneurism which will kill some time or other.

But with the great majority of cases, there is nothing of the kind; and the power of forming any correct opinion as to the result must entirely depend upon an inquiry into all the conditions in which the patient lives. In a complicated state of society in large towns, death, as every one of great experience knows, is far less often produced by any one organic disease than by some illness, after many other diseases, producing just the sum of exhaustion necessary for death. There is nothing so absurd, nothing so misleading as the verdict one so often hears: So-and-so has no organic disease—there is no reason why he should not live to extreme old age; sometimes the clause is added, sometimes not: Provided he has quiet, good food, good air, &c., &c., &c.; the verdict is repeated by ignorant people *without* the latter clause; or there is no possibility of the conditions of the latter clause being obtained; and this, the *only* essential part of the whole, is made of no effect. I have heard a physician, deservedly eminent, assure the friends of a patient of his recovery. Why? Because he had now prescribed a course, every detail of which the patient had followed for years. And because he had forbidden a course which the patient could not by any possibility alter.

I have known two cases, the one of a man who intentionally and repeatedly displaced a dislocation, and was kept and petted by all the surgeons; the other of one who was pronounced to have nothing the matter with him, there being no organic change perceptible, but who died within the week. In both these cases, it was the nurse who, by accurately pointing out what she had accurately observed, to the doctors, saved the one case from persevering in a fraud, the other from being discharged when actually in a dying state.

I will even go further and say, that in diseases which have their origin in the feeble or irregular action of some function, and not in organic change, it is quite an accident if the doctor who sees the case only once a day, and generally at the same time, can form any but a negative idea of its real condition. In the middle of the day, when such a patient has been refreshed by light and air, by his tea, his beef-tea, and his brandy, by hot bottles to his feet, by being washed and by clean linen, you can scarcely believe that he is the same person as lay with a rapid fluttering pulse, with puffed eyelids, with short breath, cold limbs, and unsteady hands this morning. Now what is a nurse to do in such a case? Not cry, "Lord, bless you, sir, why you'd have thought he were a dying all night." This may be true, but it is not the way to impress with the truth a doctor, more capable of forming a judgment from the facts, if he did but know them, than you are. What he wants is not your opinion, however respectfully given, but your facts. In all diseases it is important, but in diseases which do not run a distinct and fixed course, it is not only important, it is essential that the facts the nurse alone can observe, should be accurately observed, and accurately reported to the doctor.

I must direct the nurse's attention to the extreme variation there is not unfrequently in the pulse of such patients during the day. A very common case is this: Between 3 and 4 A. M., the pulse becomes quick, perhaps 130, and so thready it is not like a pulse at all, but like a string vibrating just underneath the skin. After this the patient gets no more sleep. About mid-day the pulse has come down to 80; and though feeble and compressible, is a very respectable pulse. At night, if the patient has had a day of excitement, it is almost imperceptible. But, if the patient has had a good day, it is stronger and steadier, and not quicker than at mid-day. This is a common history of a common pulse; and others, equally varying during the day, might be given. Now, in inflammation, which may almost always be detected by the pulse, in typhoid fever, which is accompanied by the low pulse that nothing will raise, there is no such great variation. And doctors and nurses become accustomed not to look for it. The doctor indeed cannot. But the variation is in itself an important feature.

Cases like the above often "go off rather suddenly," as it is called, from some trifling ailment of a few days, which just makes up the sum of exhaustion necessary to produce death. And everybody cries, Who would have thought it? except the observing nurse, if there is one, who had always expected the exhaustion to come, from which there would be no rally, because she knew the patient had no capital in strength on which to draw, if he failed for a few days to make his barely daily income in sleep and nutrition.

I have often seen really good nurses distressed, because they could not impress the doctor with the real danger of their patient; and quite provoked because the patient "would look" either "so much better" or "so much worse" than he really is "when the doctor was there." The distress is very legitimate, but it generally arises from the nurse not having the power of laying clearly and shortly before the doctor the facts from which she derives her opinion, or from the doctor being hasty and inexperienced, and not capable of eliciting them. A man who really cares for his patients, will soon learn to ask for and appreciate the information of a nurse, who is at once a careful observer and a clear reporter.

Undoubtedly a person of no scientific knowledge whatever, but of observation and experience in these kinds of conditions, will be able to arrive at a much truer guess as to the probable duration of life of members of a family or inmates of a house, than the most scientific physician to whom the same persons are brought to have their pulse felt; no inquiry being made into their conditions.

In Life Insurance and such like societies, were they instead of having the person examined by the medical man, to have the houses, conditions, ways of life, of these persons examined, at how much truer results would they arrive! W. Smith appears a fine hale man, but it might be known that the next cholera epidemic he runs a bad chance. Mr. and Mrs. J. are a strong healthy couple, but it might be known that they live in such a house, in such a part of London, so near the river, that they will kill four-fifths of their children; which of the children will be the ones to survive might also be known.

Averages again seduce us away from minute observation. "Average mortalities" merely tell that so many per cent. die in this town and so many in that, per annum. But whether A or B will be among these, the "average rate of course does not tell. We know, say, that from

22 to 24 per 1,000 will die in London next year. But minute inquiries into conditions enable us to know that in such a district, nay, in such a street —or even on one side of that street, in such a particular house, or even on one floor of that particular house, will be the excess of mortality, that is, the person will die who ought not to have died before old age.

Now, would it not very materially alter the opinion of whoever were endeavoring to form one, if he knew that from that floor, of that house, of that street the man came.

Much more precise might be our observations even than this, and much more correct our conclusions.

It is well known that the same names may be seen constantly recurring on workhouse books for generations. That is, the persons were born and brought up, and will be born and brought up, generation after generation, in the conditions which make paupers. Death and disease are like the workhouse, they take from the same family, the same house, or in other words, the same conditions. Why will we not observe what they are?

The close observer may safely predict that such a family, whether its members marry or not, will become extinct; that such another will degenerate morally and physically. But who learns the lesson? On the contrary, it may be well known that the children die in such a house at the rate of 8 out of 10; one would think that nothing more need be said; for how could Providence speak more distinctly? yet nobody listens, the family goes on living there till it dies out, and then some other family takes it. Neither would they listen "if one rose from the dead."

In dwelling upon the vital importance of *sound* observation, it must never be lost sight of what observation is for. It is not for the sake of piling up miscellaneous information or curious facts, but for the sake of saving life and increasing health and comfort. The caution may seem useless, but it is quite surprising how many men (some women do it too,) practically behave as if the scientific end were the only one in view, or as if the sick body were but a reservoir for stowing medicines into, and the surgical disease only a curious case the sufferer has made for the attendant's special information. This is really no exaggeration. You think, if you suspected your patient was being poisoned, say, by a copper kettle, you would instantly, as you ought, cut off all possible connection between him and the suspected source of injury without regard to the fact that a curious mine of observation is thereby lost. But it is not everybody who does so, and it has actually been made a question of medical ethics, what should the medical man do if he suspected poisoning? The answer seems a very simple one—insist on a confidential nurse being placed with the patient, or give up the case.

And remember every nurse should be one who is to be depended upon, in other words, capable of being a "confidential" nurse. She does not know how soon she may find herself placed in such a situation; she must be no gossip, no vain talker; she should never answer questions about her sick except to those who have a right to ask them; she must, I need not say, be strictly sober and honest; but more than this, she must be a religious and devoted woman; she must have a respect for her own calling, because God's precious gift of life is often literally placed in her hands; she must be a sound, and close, and quick observer; and she must be a woman of delicate and decent feeling.

To return to the question of what observation is for:—It would really seem as if some had considered it as its own end, as if detection, not cure, was their business; nay more, in a recent celebrated trial, three medical men, according to their own account, suspected poison, prescribed for dysentery, and left the patient to the poisoner. This is an extreme case. But in a small way, the same manner of acting falls under the cognizance of us all. How often the attendants of a case have stated that they knew perfectly well that the patient could not get well in such an air, in such a room, or under such circumstances, yet have gone on dosing him with medicine, and making no effort to remove the poison from him, or him from the poison which they knew was killing him; nay, more, have sometimes not so much as mentioned their conviction in the right quarter —that is, to the only person who could act in the matter.—*Miss Nightingale.*

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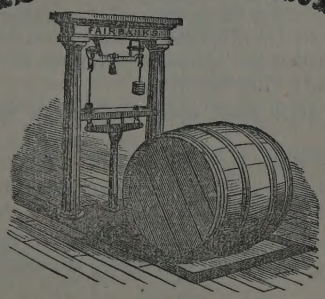

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Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

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